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Nebraska TRANSCRIPT

University of Nebraska College of Law

College unveils new mission statement, values

College launches new research center in partnership with Colleges of Journalism, Engineering, Business

Mattoon, '76, leads state bar association through pandemic

Fall 2020, Vol. 53, No. 2



DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Nebraska Law community:

I am excited for you to spend some time with this edition of *THE NEBRASKA TRANSCRIPT*. You will notice, as you read it, that it is organized in a different way. This “new look and feel” was done by design to introduce you to the College’s new mission and values. This introduction is long overdue. During the 2018-2019 academic year, your alma mater took a long, hard look at itself as a group of approximately 50 faculty, staff, students and alumni engaged in an intense strategic planning process over the course of nine months. The result was a five-year strategic plan along with a new mission statement and values developed through a consensus-building process with that group.

Just as we reached a final product, I was called away to serve as the interim executive vice chancellor. During that appointment, my colleagues at the College of Law worked to implement some of the strategic plan’s key action steps. The general idea, though, was that we would begin that work in earnest upon my return to the College as dean. That return was delayed, and ultimately, I returned at the end March 2020 . . . right in the midst of a global pandemic. You know what they say about the best laid plans, right?

So, without further ado, it is my great pleasure to share with you the College of Law’s mission statement and values:



OUR MISSION:

***We develop inclusive leaders who advance justice,
solve problems, and serve with integrity.***

OUR VALUES:

At Nebraska Law, we...

Think Creatively *Listen Graciously*
Speak Thoughtfully
Value Diversity ***Build Community***
Serve Humbly ***Act Courageously***
Work Hard ***Demand Excellence***

I hope when you read and consider this statement and these values you see yourself reflected back. We certainly considered all that our alumni do when they leave this building and build their respective careers as we developed them. When you peruse this edition of THE TRANSCRIPT, you will see that the new layout shares stories with you through the lens of our mission. Now, perhaps more than ever, the legal profession is called to lead inclusively, to advance justice and to solve problems as we serve with integrity. It is my pleasure to share with you the stories of our community members doing that vitally important work in this and future issues.

In terms of future issues, I do want to let you know that the editorial calendar for this magazine is changing. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted so many different things. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln budget was not spared; and, as a result, THE TRANSCRIPT will now be an annual publication, rather than a semi-annual publication. As such, the next issue you receive will be in the fall of 2021. In the meantime, we will continue to communicate with you via email and through our social media channels. Please make sure the email address we have on file for you is current; you will miss out on so much if it isn't.

Finally, I would be remiss if I ended this message without thanking you for your support of the College of Law. As I mentioned above, this time is extraordinarily difficult for a number of reasons. Nebraska Law is facing a significant budget reduction at a time when significant resources were required of us in order to continue to deliver an outstanding legal education in a remote environment. We were able to adjust and invest in the needed technology because of the private support of so many of you.

Over the last six months, the faculty, administrators and staff have worked tirelessly to live our mission and values as we worked together to develop and execute a plan for running a law school in the midst of a global pandemic. It has challenged us in ways imagined and unimagined. And, yet, our students are rising to the occasion and have adapted in ways that would make you proud. They certainly make me proud. Life is different right now; but, what remains the same is our commitment to developing the next generation of leaders, for Nebraska and beyond.



Richard Moberly

Dean and Richard C. & Catherine S. Schmoker
Professor of Law

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INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP



Schutz focuses on pedagogy, research as College's new associate dean for faculty

Dean Richard Moberly appointed Professor Anthony Schutz as the College of Law's associate dean for faculty effective June 1. In this role, Schutz's responsibilities include mentoring Nebraska Law's untenured faculty, focusing on helping the College faculty incorporate technology and remote teaching techniques into their pedagogy where appropriate and working to increase the amount and quality of the Law College's scholarship and research.

In his first months in this new role, Schutz played an integral role in moving Nebraska Law classrooms online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the reduced capacity of the building resulting from distancing guidelines.

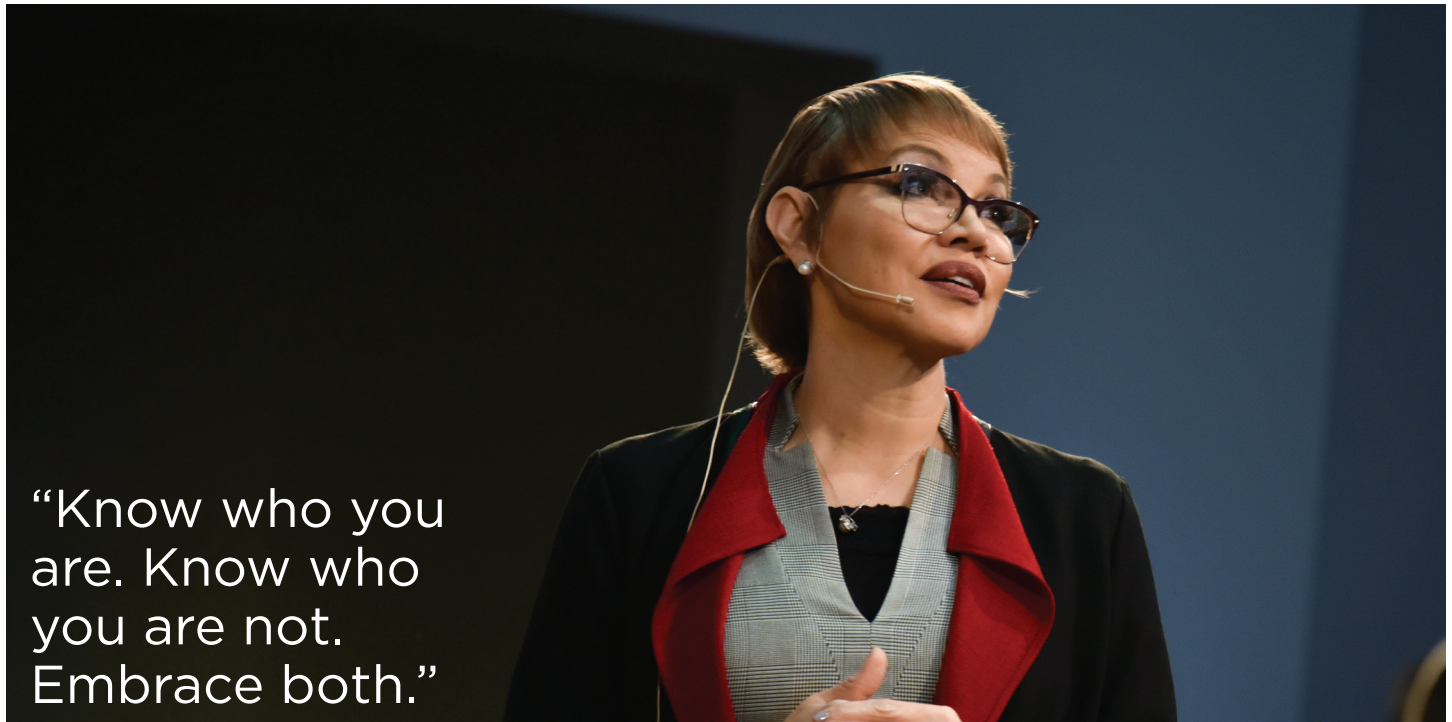
"The work that Anthony did this summer to support our faculty in moving courses online was incredible," said Moberly. "Because of that work, our transition to hybrid classrooms and entirely virtual, remote classrooms was more seamless than it would have been otherwise."

"In addition to assisting faculty with course management systems, Anthony also worked diligently with fellow first-year faculty and assistant Assistant Dean Marc Pearce to move the bulk of our 1L Orientation online with great success. His leadership allowed the College to be inclusive of faculty and students with varying needs. Anthony lived our mission this summer, and I am so grateful."

Schutz has a 20-year history with the College of Law, beginning with his time as an extraordinarily successful student and continuing through his work first as an adjunct faculty member while he clerked for the Honorable Arlen C. Beam on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and then as a full-time professor over the past 14 years.

The product of a farm family in Elwood, Nebraska, Schutz's research interests include the often-intertwined subjects of agricultural law, environmental and natural resources law and state and local government. He has served as the chair of the AALS Section on Agricultural Law, is active in the American Agricultural Law Association and is a frequent lecturer on agricultural and water law issues. He consults frequently with members of the Nebraska Unicameral on these issues as well as state constitutional issues. Schutz is a co-author of the well-regarded treatise, *The Nebraska State Constitution: A Reference Guide*, and articles appearing in, among other places, the *Drake Journal of Agricultural Law*, the *Notre Dame Journal of Legislation*, the *Texas A&M Law Review*, the *Fordham Environmental Law Review* and the *NEBRASKA LAW REVIEW*.

Women Lead 2020 conference spurs attendees to 'Claim Your Power'



Powerful words stated by Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America, former executive vice president at Walmart and kickoff keynote at the Women Lead 2020 conference. A joint conference between the College of Business and College of Law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln themed "Claim Your Power" brought a full house to Nebraska Innovation Campus Friday, March 6.

"Claire's words will be with me forever. The whole event was the perfect combination of connecting with new and old friends, learning and inspiration," said attendee Karen Helmberger, client executive at Fiserv.

That was exactly the effect the two event organizers - Molly Brummond, '03, assistant dean for external relations and strategic initiatives for the College of Law, and Sheri Irwin-Gish, executive director of communications, marketing and external relations at the College of Business - hoped Women Lead 2020 would have on attendees.

"Many women haven't had a lot of role models who look like themselves to experience how they navigate the profession. When you get into a profession and you are the only woman in the room you start to think, 'Maybe I don't belong here,' and you start believing that lie you tell yourself," Brummond said.

Speakers who shared their experiences included Nebraska Supreme Court Justice Hon. Stephanie Stacy, '91, Lincoln Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and Katie Zulkoski, attorney/lobbyist at Zulkoski Weber. Due to travel concerns surrounding COVID-19, former Washington Governor Hon. Christine Gregoire and Microsoft executive DeLee Shoemaker presented their session through Zoom videochat with former U.S. Attorney for Nebraska Deb Gilg, '77, serving as moderator.

INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP



Michele Coleman Mayes, vice president, general counsel and secretary of the New York Public Library presented the closing keynote, “You Can’t Change What You Can’t See: Interrupting Bias.” The former general counsel for Allstate Insurance and Colgate-Palmolive shared her own experiences and the findings of a study she worked on, which surveyed lawyers at major firms. When considering compensation, hiring and promotions, the study found women experience adverse effects of bias in the workplace. Coleman Mays shared that everyone has biases that vary and the only way to overcome them is for all people involved to have a positive mindset.

“Every story I heard, whether from a presenter or colleague, reminded me that women are so uniquely adaptable,” said Erin Schroeder, ’17, associate attorney at Smith Johnson Allen Connick & Hansen. “They all led inspiring conversations about making our way in a male-dominated industry, by working alongside and not against our colleagues in camaraderie. It’s obvious to me there is power in diversity and inclusion.”

Brummond said the colleges plan to host another event in two years, and she is excited to see how it grows in the future.

Irwin-Gish added, “Our plan was to fill Innovation Campus with those who support the advancement of women and bring together a diverse group of speakers who would help empower them. By those measurements, the conference was a success. The speakers were off the charts, and we are thankful for our generous donors who helped make the event possible and the vendors who participated. We hope everyone who attended woke up Monday morning ready to claim their power in more defined, purposeful ways.”

INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP



Attendees Respond to Women Lead 2020

The conference inspired me to embrace my weaknesses as well as my strengths. Leadership isn't just about what you do well, but how you encourage others to do well and how you're able to bring diverse groups together to the benefit of everyone.

- *Katie Tyler, senior accountant, Garner Industries*

The strategic and supportive intentionality behind this conference, especially in creating an opportunity today for people to gain, grow and apply their confidence for their future and OUR futures is what will help us advance women in leadership. YES! Thank you. Throughout the weekend, I found myself ruminating, referencing and recommending this conference in various situations. I'm already looking forward to the next one and hope to bring more of my team.

- *Michaella Kumke, community engagement director, Food Bank of Lincoln*

It has provided validation to my efforts to be a mentor to younger professional and high school women, and reinvigorated my efforts to be a better manager at my company.

- *Ann Diers, '86, vice president and associate general counsel, Ameritas*

It inspired me by outlining concrete actions I can start taking today to claim my power for a rewarding and successful career.

- *Paige Gade, '18, attorney, Rembolt Ludtke LLP*

INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP

The conference has impacted me in teaching me ways to overcome some of my fears and be a more effective leader.

- *Stephany Pleasant-Maness, '17, staff attorney, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

No one gets to a place of success professionally without a supportive network. It's so important to work on fostering relationships before you really need to lean on those relationships. The conference was also a good reminder to be thoughtful about your personal brand and how others perceive you. We all have a brand whether it is intentional or unintentional. Be purposeful.

- *Stephanie Dinger, vice president of small business, Union Bank & Trust*



Molly Brummond honored for her outstanding contributions to women

By University Communication

Molly Brummond, '03, has worn many hats over the course of her ten-year career at the College of Law.

Communicator. Events organizer. Student life and alumni relations extraordinaire.

Closest to her heart, though, are the roles she's played in the education and development of women lawyers like herself.

"One of my great passions is the advancement of women in their careers — the law particularly, because I am a lawyer, and I've experienced the profession," said Brummond, who currently serves as the school's assistant dean for external relations and strategic initiatives. "It's a profession that was built for men. Obviously there has been a lot of change in that, but there's still a long way to go."

On March 12, Brummond was named the 2020 recipient of the Chancellor's Outstanding Contribution to Women Award. The annual honor recognizes a campus community member who has created a climate that encourages women to succeed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"I'm just so thrilled by it," Brummond said. "I feel super lucky that I get to work on something that I love so much and then be recognized for it. It's just sort of icing on the cake."

A 2003 alumna of Nebraska Law, Brummond has firsthand experience with the uphill battle women lawyers can face in their careers.

"What's happening is that women go into the practice of law at the same rate as men, generally — but if you look at how their careers progress, a lot of them



opt out of the profession. A lot of that has to do with how demanding it is,” Brummond said.

“I opted out when I had my first baby, because I just didn’t want to live in a perpetual state of guilt. Guilt because I was working too much and not spending time with my baby, or guilt that I was spending too much time with my baby and not billing enough time. I don’t think I’m alone in that. There are really fabulous women lawyers who navigate it and they make it work and they do it, but it’s important to me that we figure out how to help more women stay in the profession.”

With that understanding in mind, Brummond has made female empowerment in the law one of her central focuses at Nebraska — starting with the Women Leading in Law, Business and Philanthropy conference she organized in 2017.

“It was just a day of magic, and before that day was even over, people were coming up to me and saying, ‘So what’s next?’ They just really loved it,” Brummond said. “That conference served as my jumping off point and helped me start to think about what the college could do to support women lawyers. That’s kind of how it all began.”

This year, Brummond was the organizer of Women Lead 2020 (see pages 6-9) — a conference on Nebraska Innovation Campus hosted in partnership with the College of Business. The interdisciplinary event, which encouraged women to “Claim Your Power,” gathered a sold-out crowd of 325 participants.

“What we wanted to do is bring together women in law, business and philanthropy so that they meet each other that they know each other they can refer business to each other. That partnership with the College of Business is super important, because we really want to help women grow their professional networks,” Brummond said.

Brummond has also started three new programs to support female lawyers in varying stages of their careers.

“After that conference where people were asking me ‘What’s next?’, I developed a program for women at different stages of their career called New, Now, Next,” Brummond said. “The New Associate Acceleration Academy is an academy that I run for new associates in their first couple of years of practice. It’s designed to help women leaders who are really early in their careers succeed in the practice of law.

“The Now Leadership Cohort is for women who are mid-career, and they’re beginning to really take on leadership roles. We talk a lot about leadership principles and how to navigate leadership situations. The Next Lunch Series is really more informal lunches that are addressed at women who are more advanced in their careers and are looking to make a change.”

Reflecting back on her career at the university, Brummond is grateful for the opportunities she’s been given to expand programming and make a difference.

“Not everybody gets to work on something that they are truly so passionate about,” Brummond said.

Lenich honored for work with students

By University Communication

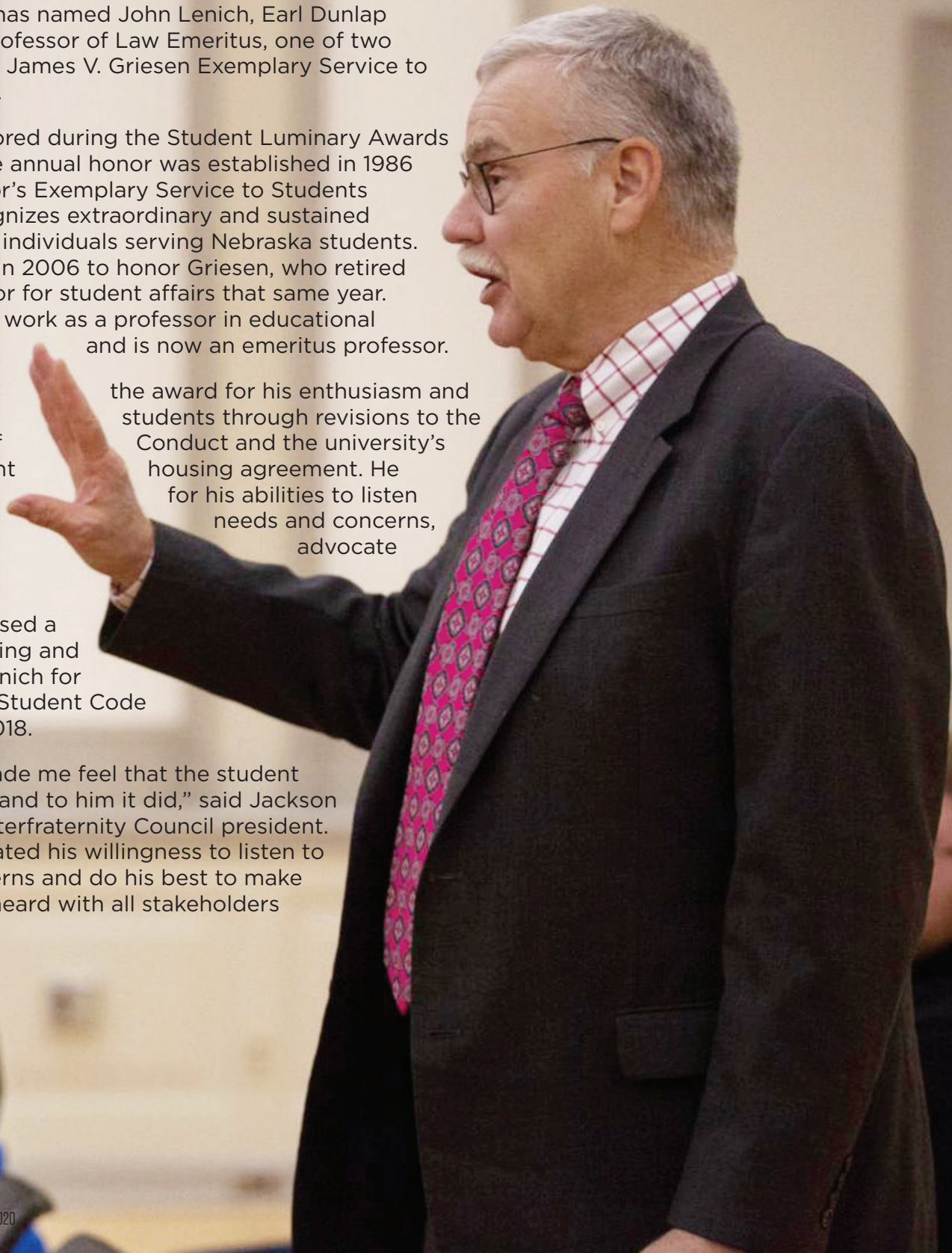
Student Affairs has named John Lenich, Earl Dunlap Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus, one of two recipients of the James V. Griesen Exemplary Service to Students Award.

Lenich was honored during the Student Luminary Awards on March 13. The annual honor was established in 1986 as the Chancellor's Exemplary Service to Students award and recognizes extraordinary and sustained performance by individuals serving Nebraska students. It was renamed in 2006 to honor Griesen, who retired as vice chancellor for student affairs that same year. He continued to work as a professor in educational administration and is now an emeritus professor.

Lenich earned commitment to Student Code of approved student earned praise to students' and help on their behalf. ASUN student government passed a resolution thanking and commending Lenich for his work on the Student Code of Conduct in 2018.

the award for his enthusiasm and students through revisions to the Conduct and the university's housing agreement. He for his abilities to listen needs and concerns, advocate

"John always made me feel that the student voice mattered, and to him it did," said Jackson Grasz, former Interfraternity Council president. "I really appreciated his willingness to listen to members' concerns and do his best to make sure they were heard with all stakeholders involved."



Bobby Larsen selected as American Constitution Society Next Generation Leader

Bobby Larsen, '21, has been selected as an American Constitution Society (ACS) Next Generation Leader. Larsen is the co-president for Nebraska Law's ACS Chapter.

Each year, ACS selects 20-25 students to be a part of the Next Generation Leader program. Next Generation Leaders have demonstrated special leadership in their work with ACS's student chapters, and have the interest, skills and ability to remain vital members of the ACS community for years to come. Students receive unique access to quarterly training and career advancement calls, tailored introductions to lawyer chapter leaders, priority access to fellowships and scholarships, special access at the National Convention and access to individualized career and support from ACS staff.



Shavers receives Nebraska Bar Association 2020 Diversity Award

During the Nebraska State Bar Association's Annual Meeting, the Association recognized members of the legal community for their exemplary service.

The 2020 Diversity Award recipient was Anna Shavers, Nebraska Law's associate dean of diversity and inclusion.

The NSBA Diversity Award recognizes outstanding efforts made by firms, organizations or individual attorneys in promoting diversity in Nebraska's legal profession. Dean Shavers was nominated for her contributions to promote diversity and inclusion within the law school and the legal community. In addition to teaching numerous courses related to Social Justice, Gender, Race, and Class and mentoring countless students as faculty advisory to the Multi-Cultural Legal Society and the Black Law Student Association, she has lead the College of Law's efforts to promote an inclusive community through sponsoring numerous speakers and faculty workshops on inclusive pedagogy and implicit bias. Shavers also shares her expertise through her leadership, scholarship and involvement in community, state, national and international initiatives.



Sullivan's Tenant Assistance Project represents renters facing eviction

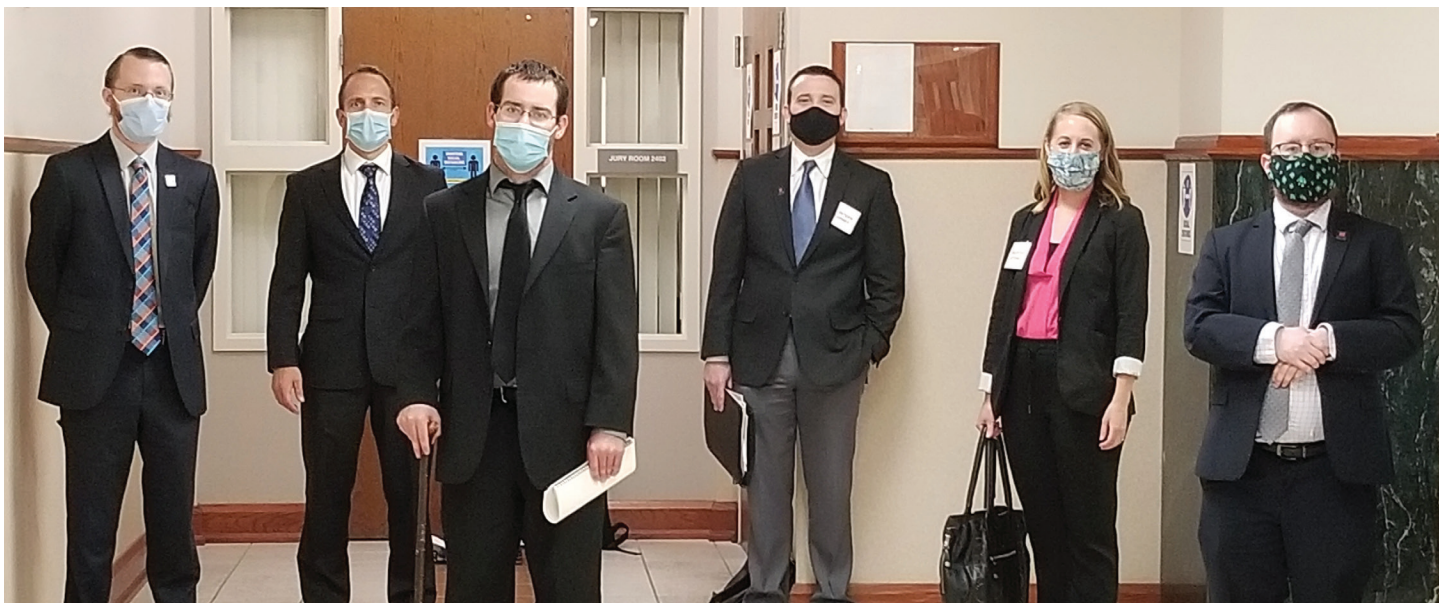
By Kala Mueller,
Director of Public Interest Programs

As tenants step off the elevator on the second floor of the Lancaster County Courthouse, a community volunteer greets them and asks whether they're here for a landlord-tenant case. If so, the individual is offered the services of an attorney from the Tenant Assistance Project (TAP) at no cost. After completing some paperwork, the tenant is introduced to a pro bono attorney who has volunteered for the morning.

Volunteer attorneys have access to a 100-page TAP Handbook prepared by Professor Ryan Sullivan, '10, as well as Eviction Defense Packets prepared for each case by College of Law students. The attorney quickly gathers information from the tenant and assesses what can be done to help. On some mornings, volunteers outnumber the tenants who are able to appear for their scheduled hearing. It is a sad irony that tenants often must take a morning off of work and lose income to address a situation that arose because they didn't have enough income. Tenants faced with the choice of missing work or missing their hearing often choose the latter because through past experiences they know they stand very little chance of success at the courthouse without legal representation, even when they have grounds to defend the claim.

TAP arose in part from a belief that the outcomes in this adversarial process are more likely to align with the law if legal assistance is readily available to tenants who come to court. The program was in the planning stages for about three years as part of the Civil Clinic's Tenants Rights Project and was set to pilot in the spring of 2020. However, when COVID-19 hit, those plans were put on hold.





“[T]he only way to ensure a just and fair outcome in an adversarial process is for there to be legal representation on both sides. Without this, eviction proceedings can hardly be deemed adversarial, but instead an administrative process benefiting only one party.”

- Professor Ryan Sullivan

Then, in mid-April, while Nebraskans were being asked to stay in their homes and self-isolate, Sullivan “happened to check the eviction docket and learned that over 30 people were being summoned to the courthouse at the same time the next morning.” He decided to mask up and head to the courthouse and, following the procedures developed for the pilot, offer assistance to all who appeared.

“I ended up representing seven families and was able to keep all of them from being evicted that day,” Sullivan said. The experience confirmed that the program was not only viable, but was needed more than ever.

Soon thereafter, Nebraska Law alumna Mindy Rush Chipman, '07, director of the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights, started volunteering as well. For several weeks, Sullivan and Rush Chipman showed up at the courthouse almost every day to assist tenants. Eventually, the NSBA Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) got involved to facilitate the program and help recruit and manage more volunteers. Since then, more than 40 attorneys have volunteered, in addition to dozens of College of Law students and community volunteers. Laurie Heer Dale, who serves as the director of VLP, said, “many volunteer attorneys are grateful for this meaningful and impactful pro bono opportunity that aligns with their interests.”

Sullivan continues to show up for landlord-tenant hearings at least once a week, and now brings senior-certified clinic students with him as well. The experience has been eye opening for those involved. While Sullivan knew that the laws in Nebraska offered fewer protections for tenants than those in other states, he “didn’t fully grasp the extent of the imbalance until spending the summer at the courthouse assisting tenants facing eviction.”

ADVANCING JUSTICE

Sullivan explained that when Nebraska adopted the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act in the 1970s, it removed or altered many of the tenant-favorable provisions. Nebraska's version of the Act also includes provisions not found anywhere else in the country, such as a virtual prohibition against a tenant obtaining a continuance of the eviction trial, even for good cause. Eviction proceedings are fast-tracked, which means the trial to determine the tenant's fate typically takes place 7-10 days from when they receive notice of it – not nearly enough time to find legal assistance or prepare a proper defense.

Sullivan noted there is a surprisingly high number of eviction matters where the tenant has a valid defense to assert and needs time to gather the evidence. However, even under those circumstances, the court is often prevented from continuing the matter unless the landlord agrees to it. This makes the job of a volunteer attorney extraordinarily difficult, as he or she may have to go to trial without any time to prepare and having only met the client a few minutes earlier. Alan Dugger, '22, who worked with the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights this summer with the support of funding from the Nebraska Public Interest Law Fund (NPILF), assisted in preparing Eviction Defense Packets and routinely observed and took notes at court hearings. He described the process as “ruthlessly efficient.”

Despite these barriers, Sullivan said tenant outcomes have improved exponentially in Lancaster County

since TAP launched. Prior to TAP, nearly every eviction hearing resulted in the tenant being evicted, and the writ of restitution was most often issued to the landlord that same day. With TAP attorneys available to help the tenant identify and present their defenses, not only are fewer tenants being evicted, but those who are ultimately displaced are often afforded much more time to find alternate housing. Sullivan noted that while eviction filings have skyrocketed in other jurisdictions, the numbers in Lancaster County have remained relatively stable. He speculates that the existence of the program has encouraged landlords to make more of an effort to work with a struggling tenant and look at alternative ways to resolve the matter, such as negotiating a payment plan or utilizing mediation.

For summer Civil Clinic students Lydia Mann, '21, and Amy Sonnenfeld, '21, TAP provided practical experience interviewing and counseling clients (and setting realistic expectations for them), drafting legal documents, negotiating with opposing counsel and appearing in court. But, there were other important lessons they took away from the experience. Mann observed that



ADVANCING JUSTICE



the facts disclosed by the tenant were often drastically different from what was presented in the complaint. Sonnenfeld noted there was frequently a lack of communication between the landlord and the tenant, and if they simply would have talked about the situation, they might have avoided the court system altogether. She added that seeing minority populations disproportionately impacted by evictions is “heart-wrenching.”

When asked whether there were any cases where access to an attorney had an especially significant impact for a tenant, Sullivan said, “There is not enough space to list them all.” However, he did cite examples of volunteer attorneys going to bat for tenants who were exhibiting symptoms of COVID and unable to come to court; tenants who withheld rent because the landlord refused to supply

essential services, like heat or adequate plumbing; and tenants facing an eviction that was brought in contravention of the law, either procedurally or substantively. Sullivan added that without

TAP or Legal Aid of Nebraska attorneys on hand to help these tenants plead their case and properly assert a defense, all of them would likely have been made homeless that day.

Since its inception, TAP has expanded to include outreach, education and rental assistance components as well. Sullivan is hopeful that the program will continue to grow, not just across Nebraska, but nationally, noting that he has been contacted by other organizations interested in implementing something similar in their jurisdiction.

“[T]he only way to ensure a just and fair outcome in an adversarial process is for there to be legal representation on both sides. Without this, eviction proceedings can hardly be deemed adversarial, but instead an administrative process benefiting only one party,” said Sullivan.

As for the students who have been involved in TAP, the impact and gravity of the experience is evident. Sonnenfeld noted, “I am still volunteering at least once a week so that I can be connected to the community and help people who are being overlooked and mistreated, especially during such uncertain times.” Dugger, who continues to work with the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights, said, “[T]he project gave me invaluable experience in a variety of legal matters, and kept me grounded during a very uncertain summer. I’m truly honored to have been given the opportunity to help people in crisis, and I think by doing so, it’s helped me, too.”



Alumni, TAP honored with community awards



The Tenant Assistance Project, a project conceived by alumna Mindy Rush Chipman, '07, and professor Ryan Sullivan, '10, was honored with The Attorney Partner Equal Justice Award from Legal Aid of Nebraska and a 2020 Good Apple Award from Nebraska Appleseed.

The multi-organization effort to provide free legal advice and representation to tenant defendants in Lancaster County Court included Legal Aid of Nebraska, the NSBA's Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) and the Nebraska Law Civil Clinic. The goal of TAP is to provide legal assistance for every tenant facing eviction proceedings in Lancaster County Court through 2020. Nearly 40 private attorneys, working through the VLP, have volunteered to provide these legal services to tenants. (For more information on TAP, see pages 14-17 of this issue of THE NEBRASKA TRANSCRIPT.)

Attorney volunteers include:

Jamie L. Arango
Terry K. Barber, '75
Robert F. Bartle, '76
James A. Cada, '71
Jonathan S. Camp, '09
Katherine R. Chadek
David V. Chipman, '05
Patrick M. Driver, '05
Quinn R. Eaton
Christopher L. Eickholt, '98
Daniel A. Fix, '95
Eric A. Gerrard
Jennifer Hiatt, '17
James H. Hoppe, '78
Brandy R. Johnson, '05

Joy M. Kathurima, '19
Alex M. Lierz, '16
Brett T. McArthur
Megan N. Mikolajczyk, '11
Kala M. Mueller
(Nebraska Law Director of Public Interest Programs)
Kasey D. Ogle, '18
Stephany P. Pleasant, '17
Laurie P. Lage, '09
Sean M. Reagan, '99
Jon V. Rehm, '04
Mindy M. Rush Chipman, '07
Stephen A. Sael
Margaret E. Schiefen

Joy Shiffermiller, '85
Charles T. Steenson, '87
Christopher R. Storz
Jennifer L. Sturm, '18
Ryan P. Sullivan, '10
(Nebraska Law Clinical Associate Professor of Law)
Audrey R. Svane, '15
Ryan M. Swaroff, '08
David P. Thompson, '93
Andrew J. Vinton, '19
Elaine A. Waggoner, '78
Brandon M. Warrington
David W. Watermeier, '82

In addition to recognition received collectively by TAP, the Nebraska Law Civil Clinic received an Outstanding Pandemic Response award from the Lincoln Homeless Coalition in honor of exceptional service to homeless and near homeless individuals and families in the Lincoln community.

Schmid Fellowship Program expands to provide summer experiences amidst COVID-19 pandemic

SOLVING PROBLEMS

By Kala Mueller, Director of Public Interest Programs



It will come as no surprise that COVID-19 disrupted life for our students in a variety of ways this year. Recognizing in early April that there would be job plans and job search efforts negatively impacted, Dean Richard Moberly asked members of the faculty and administration to “think as broadly as possible about potential opportunities for our students” to ensure they would have the ability to gain practical experience during the summer.

What emerged was a temporary but significant expansion of the Schmid Research Fellowship Program overseen by Professor of Law Library Stefanie Pearlman. Each year, thanks in part to the generosity of the Marvin & Virginia Schmid Foundation, a group of Schmid Research Fellows is hired and supervised by Pearlman to provide research assistance to faculty members. She recognized that program expansion could “do a lot of good for students and faculty.” This year, with the assistance of funding available through the CARES Act, Pearlman added 12 additional research fellows to what was originally a pool of 11, employing a total of 23 rising 2Ls and 3Ls over the summer.

To generate the additional work needed to support an increased number of fellows, Pearlman solicited additional projects from faculty members, while I asked for research-based projects from a number of local nonprofits. Our hope was to provide a meaningful summer experience for a significant number of students and support the important work these organizations and our faculty are doing. In total, 21 different faculty members utilized the research fellows this summer, and five nonprofit organizations – Center for Legal Immigration Assistance, ACLU of Nebraska, Immigrant Legal Center, the NSBA’s Volunteer Lawyers Project and the Midwest Innocence Project – received assistance.

SOLVING PROBLEMS

For some students, the opportunity came at a crucial time. Hunter Shen, '22, who came to the United States from China, said he “struggled a lot” this spring amidst the pandemic, concern for his family in China and a dramatic increase in racism and xenophobia toward Chinese people in the U.S. When a legal opportunity in New York fell through, he was grateful to be given the chance to work as a research fellow. Noting that English is his second language, Shen doubted his ability to be successful in the beginning. However, as he worked through projects with the library faculty and the Center for Legal Immigration Assistance, he learned a lot and gained confidence.



Hunter Shen, '22

The Schmid Research Fellows are a valuable resource for the faculty.

Professor Jessica Shoemaker – a self-described “big fan” of the program – frequently uses them to amplify her research agenda and scholarly work, which she hopes in turn will provide the fellows with valuable training and exposures. This summer, students helped her with research on topics including rural housing policy and trends in farmland ownership and investment over time. She also had a fellow assist with a state-specific survey of lower-court decisions related to co-ownership rights and responsibilities in American property law. This was part of a larger look at how co-owners cooperate (or don't) and how the law does (or doesn't) facilitate dispute resolution and to what ends. Shoemaker noted, “It's great to have smart, able and eager research assistants at the ready, especially when they also get support and training from Professor Pearlman.”

In assigning projects to the fellows, Pearlman tries to align them with the fellows' areas of interest.

“Students have a richer experience when they work in their areas of interest. It allows students to delve deeper into legal issues they are passionate about and to connect with faculty who have the same interests.”



Sarah Lauce, '21

Sarah Lauce, '21, who came to law school with an interest in space law and will graduate with a concentration in High Technology and International Law & Business, worked exclusively with Professor Jack Beard, co-director of the Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Program.

Beard said Lauce played an important part in researching the practice of states supporting rules in a major project sponsored by the College of Law and its British and Australian university partners, the *Woomera Manual on the International Law of Military Space Operations*.

The manual is forthcoming in 2021 (Oxford University Publishing). For Lauce, the experience has unearthed an interest in a more research-

focused career, perhaps in policy.

In some cases, the program yielded opportunities and work product that no one involved anticipated. Kristina Oleta Rachowicz, '22, is particularly interested in immigration and employment law. She dreams of one day “work[ing] for a nonprofit policy organization specializing in bolstering support for our non-citizen neighbors and/or helping the working class.” As a research fellow, she updated chapters of Professor Richard Leiter's National Survey of State Laws on Right to Work and Civil Rights, and



Kristina Oleta Rachowicz, '22

"This program encapsulated several areas of the College of Law's strategic plan. It helped our students engage in community service, provided them with both experiential and academic learning opportunities and created interaction between students and faculty. It also provided research support for our faculty to help them continue their existing projects and to investigate new areas of scholarly interest." – Professor Stefanie Pearlman

worked extensively with the Immigrant Legal Center (ILC) in Omaha. Rachowicz said, "What should have been a two-week engagement turned into a quasi-internship with ILC."

Her initial project with ILC conducting a 50-state survey of immigrant eligibility for unemployment benefits morphed into a multifaceted assignment including analysis of Nebraska's unemployment legislation, research that will aid in the creation of policy brochures for the state legislature and a presentation for attorneys at ILC to better understand unemployment funding and administration.

She also participated in meetings with field experts, such as those at the National Employment Law Project, with whom she shared her insight on present and potential future Nebraskan governance of employment matters. Impressed with the thoroughness and passion she brought to the project, ILC has invited Rachowicz to testify before the Unicameral to close the existing gap in worker protections that her research addressed.

In the end, the expansion was a win-win. According to Pearlman, "This program encapsulated several areas of the College of Law's strategic plan. It helped our students engage in community service, provided them with both experiential and academic learning opportunities and created interaction between students and faculty. It also provided research support for our faculty to help them continue their existing projects and to investigate new areas of scholarly interest."

Anna Deal, director of legal strategy for ILC, said they "absolutely" would participate if the program was offered again, noting that the research fellows both increased ILC's capacity and helped manage existing workload:

"We came away with [...] [a] 50-state survey of precedent decisions on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status predicate orders, which will inform our litigation strategy in seeking to advance Nebraska law; a template brief and chart of positive and negative authority on gender-based asylum claims, which our attorneys will utilize in briefing these cases; and a memo and PowerPoint presentation summarizing extensive research on states' unemployment insurance schemes, which will serve as our foundation in developing potential Nebraska legislation to expand access to unemployment insurance to all work-authorized immigrants.

Students were able to support important work happening in the Law College and legal community and gained experience they might not have gotten otherwise. Max Tierney, '22, who worked with three professors and also had a project with the ACLU researching the increase in sealed court filings, is thankful he had the opportunity to do the fellowship: "I had practically resigned myself to the fact that I just wouldn't be able to have a real legal experience during my 1L summer, but the fellowship gave me experience doing surveys, writing memos and hopefully helping people make the world a bit better."



Max Tierney, '22

SOLVING PROBLEMS

University launches innovative center to study how technology is governed

A new center focused on the changing relationship between law and technology and its effects on society is launching its first initiatives at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this semester.

The Nebraska Governance and Technology Center, approved by the Board of Regents in February, will give students and faculty opportunities possible at only a handful of universities across the globe. The center will leverage the university's breadth of expertise and partnerships across multiple disciplines — law, engineering, business and journalism — to allow scholars to investigate questions at the forefront of technology policy.

In August, the center received a significant gift, of \$3.5 million over five years, from the Menard family.

In an open letter to the University

"The law today has developed over centuries, largely based around slowly evolving technologies that were limited by our understanding of the natural world. Today's increasingly programmable technologies can change rapidly and are limited more by human imagination than by the natural world. This changes how we need to think about the law and changes the relationship between the engineers who develop new technologies, the entrepreneurs who commercialize it and the journalists who explain and contextualize it."

Professor Gus Hurwitz

of Nebraska community, the Menard family said: “A seminal part of the college experience is hearing from people who have a diversity of viewpoints and track record of creating value for others. At Menards, we want to give more students the opportunity to have that experience and to develop a lifelong love of learning as a result.”

The center will take on issues that arise when laws and technology fail to align, according to its founding director, Gus Hurwitz, associate professor of law.

The first endeavor of the center is called “Tech Refactored,” a podcast series focused on the center’s work and the research it will help facilitate. Many of the initial episodes will showcase center-funded work on closing the rural digital divide and technology’s relationship to agriculture. The center is also working on programs this fall that examine highly interconnected economies and the effects of technology on the First Amendment and the media industry.

“The law today has developed over centuries, largely based around slowly evolving technologies that were limited by our understanding of the natural world,” Hurwitz said. “Today’s increasingly programmable technologies can change rapidly and are limited more by human imagination than by the natural world. This changes how we need to think about the law and changes the relationship between the engineers who develop new technologies, the entrepreneurs who commercialize it and the journalists who explain and contextualize it.”

The new center will be housed in the College of Law, and legal questions will inspire research and other academic programming.

“Lawyers are deeply involved in finding solutions to existing and emerging challenges — including those driven by technological change,” said Richard Moberly, dean of law. “I’m excited that Nebraska will be leading the way with innovative research initiatives across law

and other disciplines.”

One of the core ideas behind the center’s mission is that the challenges of technology governance are fundamentally interdisciplinary. The center has established partnerships with the university’s colleges of law, business, engineering and journalism — sharing faculty and collaborating with students across campuses.

In Hurwitz’s view, it is time to reframe the way emerging technology is studied and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration.

“The impact of new technologies ripples across multiple fields — the traditional, siloed model of study is insufficient to fully grapple with them,” he said.

Preliminary planning for the center started in spring 2020 with a \$1.3 million gift from the Charles Koch Foundation.

“Innovation and technology have transformed the way humans live and have expanded opportunities for millions of people,” said Ryan Stowers, Koch Foundation executive director. “We are excited to support the University of Nebraska and its scholars and students as they explore the intersection of law and technology and how that relationship impacts the development of new innovations.”

The Menard family has its roots in the Midwest and a longstanding commitment to seeing the region prosper. John Menard founded his namesake home improvement stores while he still was a student at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Today, Menards has 325 stores and 41 manufacturing facilities in 14 Midwestern states. In Nebraska alone, Menards has 14 stores and four manufacturing facilities.

Other gifts and grants have been received from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which gave \$250,000; Richard Varner, an alumnus of the University of Nebraska, and his family; and others.

FACULTY NOTES



Jack M. Beard

Associate Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Space, Cyber & Telecom Law Program

Professor Jack Beard presented “International Law and Military Space Operations” on the National Security Law Today Podcast of the American Bar Association. He presented on a panel, “Competition and Conflict in Outer Space,” at the 3rd Annual Alexander C. Cushing Conference at the U.S. Naval War College and co-taught this year’s edition of the Strategic Space Law Course at University of Adelaide Law School, Australia (via Zoom). He also presented an introduction to commercial, civil and military space law topics to the Omaha Bar Association.



Eric Berger

Earl Dunlap Distinguished Professor of Law

Professor Eric Berger published “Comparative Capacity and Competence” at 2020 *Wisconsin Law Review* 215. The piece was a contribution for a symposium about Professor Andrew Coan’s new book *Rationing the Constitution: How Judicial Capacity Shapes Supreme Court Decision-Making*. Berger also published a book chapter, “Evolving Standards of Lethal Injection” in a volume of essays entitled *The Eighth Amendment and Its Future in a New Age of Punishment*. The book, published by Cambridge University Press and edited by Professors William Berry and Meghan Ryan, presented work by many of the nation’s leading scholars of criminal punishment and Eighth Amendment issues. He was also invited by the *Ohio State Law Journal* to write a response to an article published in that journal. He also presented a paper, “The Many Groups Behind the Lethal Injection Stalemate,” at the Maryland Discussion Group on Constitutionalism at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law in Baltimore. In mid-May, Berger stepped down from his role as associate dean for faculty after over four years in that position.



Kristen M. Blankley

Professor of Law and Director of the Robert J. Kutak Center for the Teaching and Study of Applied Ethics

Professor Kristen Blankley authored a chapter on “Evaluating Ethically” in the upcoming book *Mediation Ethics: A Practitioner’s Guide* (ABA Publishing). In addition, she has accepted an offer of publication for “ADR is Not a Household Term: Considering the Ethical and Practical Consequences of the Public’s Lack of Understanding of Mediation and Arbitration” with the NEBRASKA LAW REVIEW for publication in 2021. The ADR paper is the work of a collaboration with Drs. Ashley Votruba and Lisa Pytlik-Zillig, and 2L Logen Bartz reporting their findings on the public’s familiarity with ADR procedures and the its implications for lawyers, neutrals and courts. Blankley has been elected chair of the UNL Faculty Senate Intercollegiate Athletics Committee for academic year 2020-21.



Robert C. Denicola

Margaret R. Larson Professor of Intellectual Property Law

Professor Rob Denicola has begun work on a new edition of his casebook on Copyright Law, to be published by Foundation Press.



Richard F. Duncan

Sherman S. Welpton, Jr. Professor of Law and Warren R. Wise Professor of Law

Professor Rick Duncan’s article, “Seeing the No-Compelled-Speech Doctrine Clearly through the Lens of Telescope Media,” will be published in volume 99 of the NEBRASKA LAW REVIEW. Duncan filmed two video CLEs - one on “Kermit Gosnell and the Masks of the Law” and the other on “The No-Compelled-Speech Doctrine from Justice Jackson to Justice Kennedy” - for the 2020 virtual Nebraska State Bar Annual Meeting. He also spoke at South Dakota Law School on “The Supreme Court and the Future of *Roe v. Wade*” and participated in a documentary to be shown on Netflix on electoral federalism.

FACULTY NOTES



Justin W. (Gus) Hurwitz

Associate Professor of Law, Menards Director of the Nebraska Governance and Technology Center, and Co-Director of the Space, Cyber and Telecom Law Program

In Fall 2020, the University officially launched the Nebraska Governance and Technology Center, of which Professor Gus Hurwitz is the director. This new center, which is being started with over \$5.5 million in private gifts, will study the role of the law in mediating the effects that changing technology has on society. In addition, Hurwitz has several recent or forthcoming publications, including articles appearing in the *Pennsylvania Journal of Law and Innovation*, the *Florida Law Review Forum* and the *North Carolina Journal of Law and Technology* as well as a chapter on duties to deal in the digital economy appearing in a forthcoming report on the current issues in antitrust law published by the Global Antitrust Institute.



Richard A. Leiter

Director of the Schmid Law Library and Professor of Law

Professor Richard Leiter was awarded the 2020 ALL-SIS Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship. Those who nominated him cited his service, scholarship and podcast (Law Librarian Conversations), as well as his “spectacular ability to bring people together to learn, develop and dissect the core values and vision of what it means to be a great law librarian.” Since 2000, the annual Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship has recognized an individual or group who has made outstanding contributions to academic law librarianship through continued efforts to improve law librarianship. The award is named in honor of Frederick Charles Hicks, the first great American law librarian/scholar who was also the first academic law librarian to serve as president of AALL. Leiter also released an interim update to his award-winning reference book, *National Survey of State Laws*, 8th edition. The update included two new chapters, one on Beer Law and another on Voting Laws.



Brian D. Lepard

Harold W. Conroy Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the LL.M. Program in Global Legal Practice

Professor Brian Lepard published two law review articles and one book chapter in Portuguese on the subject of international human rights law, all of them appearing in prominent publications in Brazil.

The first article was an outgrowth of Lepard's collaboration with the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul ("UFRGS") in Porto Alegre, Brazil, where he has taught courses during the summer for the last four years. It was published in the law review of UFRGS, *Cadernos do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Direito da Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Review of the Graduate Program in Law of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul)*. The title of the article is "Desenvolvimentos Novos no Direito Internacional dos Direitos Humanos: As Suas Fontes, História e Instituições" ("New Trends in International Human Rights Law: Its Sources, History, and Institutions"). The second law review article was the fruit of collaboration with another law school in Brazil, the law faculty of the Universidade de Uberlândia in Uberlândia, Brazil. It is called "O Status da Declaração Universal dos Direitos Humanos no Direito Internacional Contemporâneo" ("The Status of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Contemporary International Law"). The article was published in the *Revista da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade Federal de Uberlândia (Review of the School of Law of the Federal University of Uberlândia)*.

The book chapter appeared in a book entitled *Argumentação Jurídica: E Questões Controvertidas de Direito Constitucional Contemporâneo (Legal Argument: And Controversial Questions of Contemporary Constitutional Law)*. The book was edited by Professor Arthur M. Ferreira Neto of the law faculty of the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul ("PUCRS"), another law school in Porto Alegre, Brazil, where Lepard has given numerous lectures. Lepard's chapter in the book is entitled "Reflexões sobre a Resolução de Debates Relativos à Declaração Universal dos Direitos Humanos: O Potencial de uma Abordagem Baseada em Princípios Éticos Fundamentais" ("Reflections on the Resolution of Debates on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: The Potential of an Approach Based on Fundamental Ethical Principles."). The book was published by Editora Instituto Memória in Curitiba, Brazil. Lepard published an article, "Violating International Law Through Onerous Procedural Law: The Proposed U.S. Asylum Regulations," on the international law blog *Völkerrechtsblog*.

FACULTY NOTES



Colleen E. Medill

Robert and Joanne Berkshire Family Professor of Law

Professor Colleen Medill has been appointed director of Undergraduate Academic Programs for the College of Law. As director, she works closely with the University Honors Program to develop the College's relationship with some of UNL's most talented undergraduates. She also is working with the College of Business to turn the current undergraduate minor in Law and Business into a major degree program. Medill has been certified as an online teacher by the UNL Center for Transformative Teaching, which emphasizes best practices in online education. She implemented these practices by redesigning her Property and Real Estate Transactions courses for 2020-2021 to work in a hybrid (part live, part Zoom) teaching environment. She currently is writing an article on how ERISA plan administrators and trustees should handle uncashed benefit checks in light of their ERISA fiduciary duties, a thorny problem that has become more pressing in light of the large numbers of recent COVID deaths among elderly pensioners. Medill received the John H. Binning Award for Excellence in recognition of her teaching and public service.



Harvey S. Perlman

Harvey and Susan Perlman Alumni Professor of Law

Professor Harvey Perlman in March retreated to his home. Designated as one of the "vulnerables" by the Center for Disease Control, he explored, and partially mastered, the intricacies of such technologies as Zoom, Canvas, Vid-Grid (and actually for the first time discovered one of his televisions could get Netflix and Amazon Prime). He enrolled in a University seminar to train faculty to teach remotely, and concluded that he was best off at the law school without the requirement of fashioning course goals and objectives, specific measurements for achievement, learning outcomes and other activities designed to insure that intellectual substance does not impede on procedural purity. This summer he conducted an exhaustive study of facial coverings, discovering that plastic shields are not as effective as masks, that masks actually both protect others and the wearer if the filtering is good enough (but most masks are not) and that if you wear a clear mask so students can see your facial expressions, you will provoke howling laughter from your family. And he continued his work on several projects for the Uniform Law Commission.



Josephine (Jo) R. Potuto

Richard H. Larson Professor of Constitutional Law

Professor Jo Potuto published “College Coaches, College Athletes, and the First Amendment,” in the *Mississippi Sports Law Review*. She also continues to be a “go to” source for media on sports-related issues. Most recently, she has been quoted in the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *ESPN* online.



Matthew Schaefer

Veronica A. Haggart & Charles R. Work Professor of International Trade Law and Founding Co-Director of the Space, Cyber & Telecom Law Program

Professor Matt Schaefer authored an article on gene-edited crops and food and U.S trade agreements, partially sponsored under a USDA grant project coordinated by Yanney Chair Agriculture Economics Dept. Professor John Beghin. Schaefer also published an article titled “What Level of Detail in National Commercial Space Legislation is Ideal for the Harmonization and Enforcement of Such Legislation and the Outer Space Treaty?” in the 62rd *International Institute of Space Law (IISL) Colloquia of Laws of Outer Space*. Finally, he gave guest lectures on USMCA (NAFTA 2.0) and international trade issues connected with agriculture and procurement at University of San Diego Law School in Professor Ralph Folsom’s international business transactions course as part of the professional activities connected with the launch of the 13th edition of West Publishing’s *International Business Transactions: A Problem Oriented Coursebook*, co-authored by Professors Folsom, Van Alstine, Ramsey and Schaefer.



Anna Williams Shavers

Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion and Cline Williams Professor of Citizenship Law

Professor Anna Shavers moderated a panel, Managing Federal Agency Adjudication Programs, as part of the Symposium on Federal Agency Adjudication sponsored by the Administrative Conference of the United States(ACUS). It can be found at <https://www.acus.gov/meetings-and-events/event/symposium-federal-agency-adjudication>.



Jessica A. Shoemaker

Professor of Law

Professor Jessica Shoemaker published her article, “An Introduction to American Indian Land Tenure: Mapping the Legal Landscape” in the *Journal of Law, Property, & Society* after a double-blind peer-review process. This article includes a comprehensive analysis of a host of land-related legal and justice issues impacting tribal governments and Indigenous Peoples in the United States and is intended as a resource for classrooms, interdisciplinary scholars and policymakers. She also presented a work-in-progress related to adaptive capacity theories of property system change and U.S. and Canadian land tenure reform comparisons at workshops and meetings hosted by the University of Saskatchewan Faculty of Law, the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment at the University of Colorado School of Law and the international Legal Reforms for Indigenous Economic Growth Project.



Ryan P. Sullivan

Clinical Associate Professor of Law

In collaboration with other Nebraska legal services providers, Professor Ryan Sullivan launched the Tenants Assistance Project, known as TAP, that provides legal representation to Lancaster County tenants facing eviction. The program, now facilitated by the NSBA Volunteer Lawyers Project and supported by a cadre of over 80 attorney and community volunteers, has helped nearly 200 Nebraska families facing eviction remain in their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sullivan gave several TV, radio and newspaper interviews relating to the eviction crisis and was recognized by the Mayor of Lincoln for his work on the Tenants Assistance Project. This fall, Sullivan was granted tenure and promoted to clinical associate professor.





Adam Thimmesch

Professor of Law

Professor Adam Thimmesch has been appointed as the reporter for the Uniform Law Commission's Online Sales Tax Collection Committee. Thimmesch also published several pieces in *Tax Notes State* evaluating the state-tax aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic as a part of Project SAFE. He also presented a webinar on how the federal CARES Act would impact Nebraska's state tax system and his proposals for how the Nebraska legislature should respond to that federal bill. He also testified in the legislature's Revenue Committee on the same topic. Thimmesch was recently promoted to full professor.

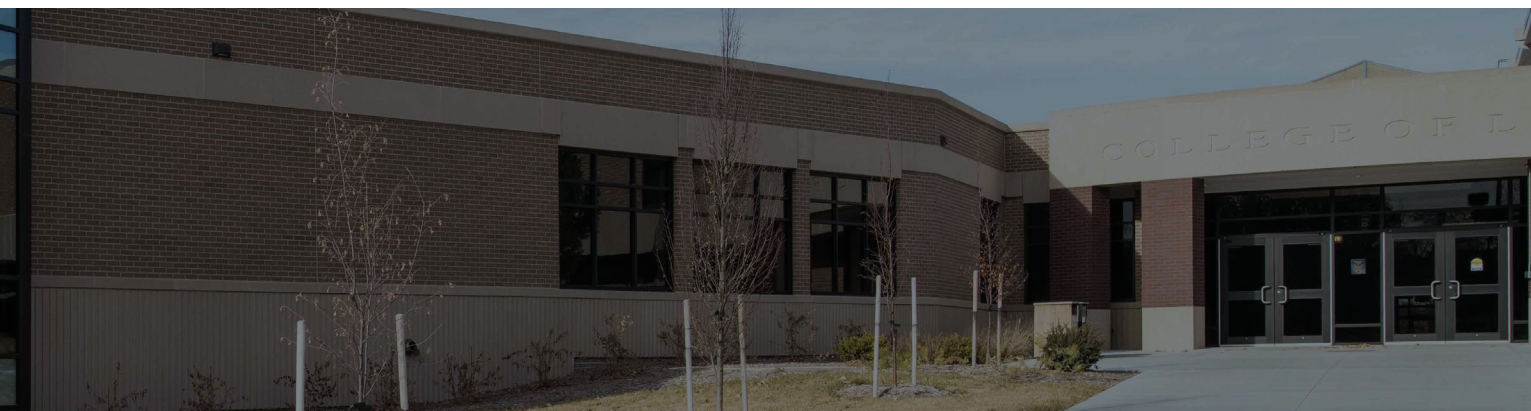


Steven L. Willborn

Judge Harry A. Spencer Professor of Law

Professor Steve Willborn has been appointed to several Uniform Law Commission committees: the Style Committee (which reviews all proposed acts for conformance with ULC drafting conventions); the Legislative Council (which monitors success in getting uniform acts enacted); the Developments in Privacy Committee (which monitors the area for the need for uniform acts); a committee to draft a uniform law on covenants not to compete; and a committee to study whether a uniform act would be appropriate to make international supply chains more transparent and responsible. He also published a memorial to Professor Marty Gardner in the *NEBRASKA LAW REVIEW*.

Follow the faculty at <https://law.unl.edu/faculty-administration>



SOLVING PROBLEMS

Faculty research seeks solutions for problems impacting Nebraskans

Through the College's strategic planning process, it became evident that the faculty regularly works on finding solutions to problems that directly impact Nebraskans. It also became clear through that process that the College needed to share the faculty's incredible work happening with a much broader audience. To that end, we hope that you enjoy the snapshots provided below of the work that professors Kristen Blankley, Anthony Schutz and Gus Hurwitz are doing. We also encourage you to learn more about this work at law.unl.edu/researchimpact.

Disrupting the school to prison pipeline through restorative justice

Nebraska Law's Kristen Blankley is conducting leading research in restorative justice and it's making a real impact on Nebraska communities. Through research, policy development and case facilitation, she is a thought leader in this critical area of study.

Blankley has uncovered 93 percent of the youth involved in Nebraska's restorative justice programs were able to reach a reparation agreement for their case by participating in youth conferencing. These reparation agreements and the model of restorative justice are key in helping Nebraska's youth offenders find an alternative solution and avoid the school to prison pipeline.

Exploring the extent to which Natural Resources Districts can effectively govern the use of bodies of water

Nebraska is the only state that uses Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) as a governing body. Set by the physical boundaries of state's major river basins, Nebraska's 23 NRDs are responsible for governance on water conservation, flood prevention, pollution control and much more. But what are the legal parameters of these unique governing bodies?

Nebraska Law's Anthony Schutz is a leading expert in this area of law and his research delves into Nebraska's water law and administration.





SOLVING PROBLEMS



Closing the rural digital divide and bringing broadband to rural America

The digital divide is one of the most pressing public policy issues facing America today. By studying the challenges that make the divide difficult to close, Professor Gus Hurwitz is helping shape decisions and influence policies that affect millions of households.

Hurwitz's work has brought officials from the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, and senior leadership from the Federal Communications Commission, to Nebraska to meet with students, industry stakeholders, University researchers and farmers in the field.

Steve Mattoon, '76, finds silver linings while leading state bar association during unprecedented times

By Katie Pfannenstiel, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations & Event Planning

Steve Mattoon's, '76, passion for law began at an early age. His grandfather, Harold, graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law and his father, Frank, graduated from Nebraska Law in 1949. Both men taught him there was "no more honorable profession than that of being a lawyer." He admired their commitment and love of the profession, knowing one day he would follow in their footsteps. His family's involvement in the legal profession had a huge impact on who he is and the attorney he became. Mattoon continued the tradition, influencing his daughters, Kendra Ringenberg, '03, and Stephanie Mattoon, '05, to become fourth-generation lawyers and third generation graduates of Nebraska Law.

Mattoon continued his grandfather and father's legacies when he joined his father's practice. His mentors, in addition to his grandfather and father, were former partners Paul Martin and Gerald Matzke, as they provided hands-on training and mentoring that ultimately "and most importantly, taught me how to conduct oneself as an



attorney and how to deal with clients.” Because Mattoon had close mentors that guided him in the profession, he began serving the Nebraska State Bar Association in a multitude of ways, culminating in becoming its president in October 2019, because it was his turn to exhibit “the same patience in passing my knowledge on to my younger partners and to other lawyers in my community.”

As he began his term, Mattoon immediately learned a hard lesson: gender equity does not exist for women lawyers in Nebraska. He was intent on using his presidency to bring this issue to the forefront.

“A virtual environment created efficiencies and can perhaps make legal service more affordable for more Nebraskans. Ultimately, constant communication helped the NSBA leadership better understand the evolving situation and helped us to identify new ways to further support membership and the justice system. I am very proud of how we navigated that time.” - Steve Mattoon, '76

“I spent my life surrounded by strong capable women. I assumed, given women’s increased representation in our profession, that gender discrimination had greatly decreased. I realized that, unfortunately, I was wrong.”

Specifically, Mattoon found the results of a survey conducted by the Women in the Law Section of the NSBA in 2018, and the 50 pages of comments, to be “disturbing.” He reprinted the statistics in an article he wrote for the March/April 2020 *Nebraska Lawyer* magazine, noting that a large number of male attorneys may also be ignorant to such issues. The “old boy network,” obviously inappropriate comments or the fact that women lawyers are paid less for the same level (or more) work were only part of what he read and found discouraging. In his message, Mattoon encouraged readers to follow the article’s advice and take action each day to work toward a more inclusive work environment, pointing out that the first step is acknowledging the problem exists. At the end of that article, he encouraged members to “work together toward a better

future for all of our members.”

He intended to follow that message with further work on the issue; then, the COVID-19 pandemic changed everything.

In March, Mattoon’s law firm, like so many others, faced tremendous challenges as communities began to shut down. Appointment issues arose as he and his colleagues grappled with implementing safety precautions to ensure the health and safety of both staff and clients. His home recreation table, where he would normally play UNO or dominoes with friends or grandchildren became his new worktable.

Mattoon often wondered how long it would last, how far it might spread and how many, if not all, conferences and events would be postponed or cancelled. He thanked state and local officials for their diligent actions to keep communities safe and appreciated the way in which people had begun to “use imaginative ways of moving forward while remaining safe.” He lauded the Nebraska Supreme Court for their pandemic plan, knowing it would provide additional guidance and strategies to manage the legal system.

In addition to worrying about how his firm would pivot its operations and deliver services to clients in new and innovative ways, Mattoon also was concerned about how the NSBA’s work would change. Almost immediately, the NSBA’s employees transitioned to remote work environments, keeping up to date with court orders and city ordinances, as well as learning new technology. “Business was definitely not business as usual for anyone,” Mattoon stated. However, they successfully transitioned CLE opportunities online, which included the NSBA’s

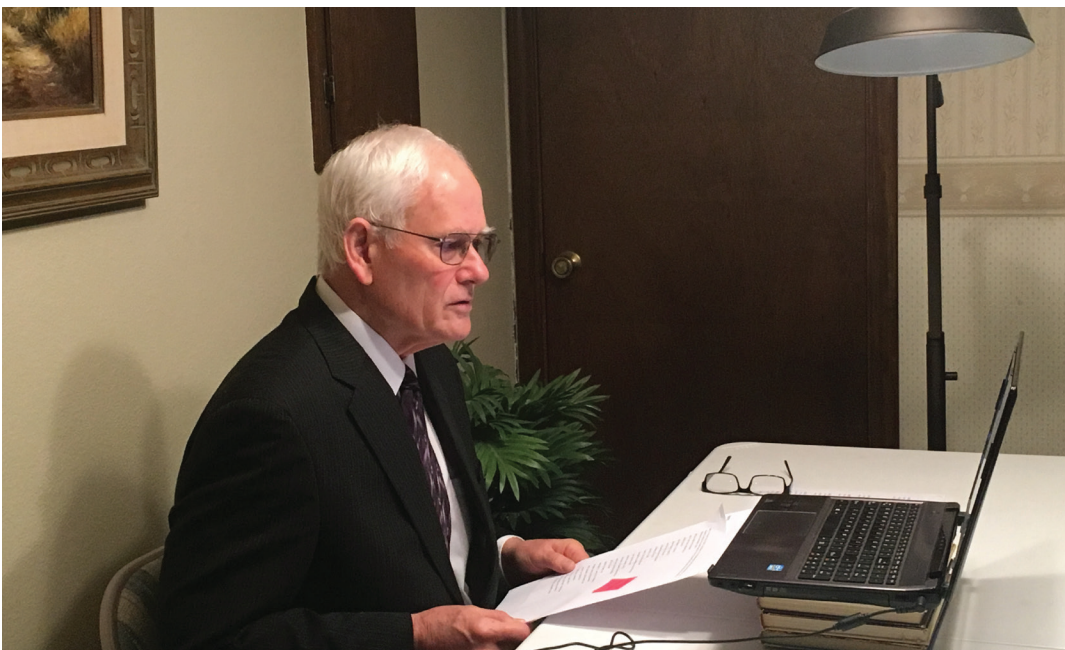
Annual Meeting. It was a first for the Barrister's Ball to be completely virtual and surprisingly, they raised a record amount in contributions, aiding in the expansion of access to justice.

As those operational level transitions took place, the leadership team began to pinpoint areas in which they could support not only the members, but also the NSBA's mission. When the Supreme Court removed the five-hour limit on distance learning, the NSBA worked diligently and was able to provide more than 100 online CLE opportunities via on-demand programming and webinars to ensure constituents were able to meet necessary requirements. They worked with the Nebraska State Bar Foundation to provide CLE scholarships to those needing financial assistance. They also began identifying issues related to firms of all shapes and sizes. Needs such as budgeting for legal services would be changing, lawyers becoming teachers for their school-aged children and daycare providers while trying to balance work, were just a couple examples he named.

"In a number of ways, dealing with the pandemic has created some silver-linings," Mattoon said. For instance, these new work parameters forced lawyers to adapt and become more tech savvy. The NSBA adapted pro bono opportunities by establishing a legal clinic to assist Nebraskans dealing with evictions and they created a COVID-19 resource page to help members navigate the everchanging legal landscape. It helped some aspects of practice come into a new, but oftentimes unused, era of information storage, e-filing and client payment practices. Less travel allowed both practitioners and clients to save money, as well as witnesses the ability to appear virtually.

"A virtual environment created efficiencies and can perhaps make legal service more affordable for more Nebraskans," Mattoon said. "Ultimately, constant communication helped the NSBA leadership better understand the evolving situation and helped us to identify new ways to further support membership and the justice system. I am very proud of how we navigated that time."

Mattoon handed the reigns over to Jill Robb Ackerman at the NSBA's annual meeting in October; she, too, will face the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges



that he himself confronted, Mattoon leaves the NSBA with the hope that, "all attorneys realize the influence they can have on younger attorneys, not only by direct mentoring and advice, but also by patience and serving as examples of civility, integrity, service and professionalism."

Despite pandemic, social distancing, remote classrooms, new faculty adjusting to Nebraska, Law College

Moving families is never easy. Doing so in the midst of a global pandemic presents even more of a challenge. Despite that challenge, Kyle Langvardt, James Tierney and Elana Zeide did just that in order to begin their careers at Nebraska Law. Each joins the faculty and brings with them a wealth of knowledge and experience from which students are benefitting despite socially distanced and virtual classrooms.

PROFESSOR KYLE LANGVARDT

Professor Kyle Langvardt is a member of the Nebraska Governance and Technology Center (NGTC). (For more information on the center see the article about it in this issue of *THE TRANSCRIPT* on pages 22-23.) He is a First Amendment scholar who focuses on the Internet's implications for free expression both as a matter of constitutional doctrine and as a practical reality. His written work has addressed new and confounding policy issues including tech addiction, the collapse of traditional gatekeepers in online media and 3D-printable weapons. Langvardt's most recent papers have appeared in the *Georgetown Law Journal*, the *Fordham Law Review* and the *George Mason Law Review*.

Langvardt received his B.A. in Philosophy from Earlham College, where he graduated with college and departmental honors, and he received his J.D. from the University of Chicago School of Law. After law school, Langvardt practiced at the Chicago, Illinois, office of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP (now Locke Lord LLP). He went on to teach as a lecturer in the Department of Business Law at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, and later as a professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, where he received James T. Barnes, Sr. Memorial Faculty Scholar Award in 2019.



PROFESSOR JAMES FALLOWS TIERNEY



Professor James Fallows Tierney's primary areas of research and teaching interest include securities regulation, corporate finance and the behavioral law and economics of investment advice and securities markets. He leverages his experience in the public and private sectors to address questions such as the optimal choice of sanctions in securities enforcement; the effectiveness of the Securities and Exchange Commission's and the self-regulatory organizations' enforcement and regulatory programs related to trading, markets and investment management; how regulated entities in these and other areas appeal to the psychology of market actors such as investors and consumers; and, how regulators should account for the divergent interests of "main street" and "Wall Street" investors in markets for advice.

Before joining the College of Law faculty, Tierney was senior counsel at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Office of the General Counsel. In that role, he advised the Commission in resolving administrative appeals of enforcement proceedings and self-regulatory organization action involving all aspects of the federal securities laws, and wrote opinions of the Commission constituting final agency action. Prior to that, he practiced at Mayer Brown LLP, focusing on Supreme Court and appellate litigation and regulatory policy. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable Mary Schroeder of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Tierney has a J.D. with honors from the University of Chicago School of Law, where he was executive articles and book review editor of the *University of Chicago Law Review*. He also has an M.A. from the University of Chicago and an A.B. from Brown University.

PROFESSOR ELANA ZEIDE

Professor Elana Zeide teaches, researches and writes about the legal, policy and ethical implications of data-driven systems and artificial intelligence. Prior to joining the faculty, Zeide was a PULSE Fellow in Artificial Intelligence, Law & Policy at UCLA's School of Law. Her work focuses on how new learning, hiring and workplace technologies impact education, equality and access to opportunity. Recent articles include *Student Privacy in the Age of Big Data*, *The Structural Consequences of Big Data-Driven Education*, and *Algorithms Make Lousy Fortune Tellers*.

Zeide previously served as a visiting assistant professor at Seton Hall University's School of Law, an associate research fellow at Princeton University's Center for Information Technology Policy, a visiting fellow at Yale School of Law's Information Society Project, and a Microsoft research fellow at New York University's Information Law Institute. She is also an affiliate at Data & Society Research Institute and serves on advisory boards for The Future of Privacy Forum, Macmillan Learning's Impact Research Advisory Council and Blackboard's Taskforce to Develop Framework and Standards for the Ethical and Legal Use of Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education.

Zeide received her B.A. *cum laude* in American Studies from Yale University, her M.F.A. from Columbia University and her J.D. and LL.M. from New York University School of Law where she was a notes editor of the *New York University Law Review*. Zeide worked as a litigation associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore and a legal analyst at Bloomberg Media before opening her own privacy, media and platform law practice. Prior to becoming an attorney, she was a journalist and pop culture columnist in London and New York.



Patty Cavanagh retires after 19 years of care, kindness, relationship building

By Katie Pfannenstiel, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations & Event Planning

Patty Cavanagh retired from the College of Law in August after 19 years of service. Cavanagh served as receptionist and office associate in the Dean's Office, where she was the welcoming face and voice of the law school. When thanking Patty for her dedication, Dean Richard Moberly stated, "Patty helped set the tone for the type of community we strive to be and are on our best days: warm, caring, gracious and professional. Students sang her praises in our surveys and we could not have asked for a better person to be our first contact with public visitors."

In 1976, Patty graduated from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. She spent some time in Colorado before moving to Lincoln, where she worked for the Board of Pardons and Paroles for two years. She then spent four years teaching at Cathedral of the Risen Christ, followed by 18 years with Sprague Roofing Company. Patty then joined the Nebraska Law staff in June 2001. During her time at the College, she had a variety of duties, varying from classroom and study room reservations, serving as the building maintenance representative, scheduling and processing class evaluations and assisting with final exams. As colleague and friend, Vicki Lill, assistant director of student services and registration specialist, explained, "I know she was always doing something for someone, whether it was a student, staff member or faculty. She basically knew what was going on in the building all of the time."

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to celebrate Patty in person, so the college arranged for a card shower, where alumni, friends and colleagues were invited to share their memories of their time together.

As we safely came back to the building and welcomed students back to campus, we were reminded of exactly how much her presence is missed. Cavanagh not only provided kindness to colleagues but mentored and built relationships with the students that stopped in from time to time, especially those who helped cover the desk over the noon hour. Marc Pearce, assistant dean of student affairs and administration, reflected on the impact Patty left, stating, "She inspires me to strive to maintain the spirit of our school and the culture that our students enjoy, and I think of her fondly as I do my best to maintain what she helped build."

Patty's favorite quote was from Maya Angelou: "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel." Patty applied this notion to every aspect of her work at the College of Law and, because she did, countless students, alumni, guests and colleagues felt cared for and encouraged. Thank you, Patty, for all that you gave to everyone whom you encountered.



Class of 2020 celebrates milestones online, outdoors

SERVING WITH INTEGRITY



The Class of 2020 is one that will never be forgotten around the world. Whether it was a class graduating from high school, college or law school, members of this year's graduating class celebrated those milestones differently. Nebraska Law's Class of 2020 was no exception. On Saturday, May 9, the Class of 2020 along with faculty gathered via Zoom for an online commencement ceremony. Graduates were addressed by Dean Richard Moberly, class president Ashley Inbau and Michael Heavican, '75, chief justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court. Chancellor Ronnie Green attended the ceremony and conferred the degrees. Assistant Dean Marc Pearce then awarded the degrees. Families and friends were able to watch the live

stream of the ceremony via Facebook. Inbau also worked with fellow classmates to compile a slideshow that was played after the ceremony concluded for those interested.

For the majority of graduates, the online ceremony was followed by the traditions that typically follow law school graduations. Some moved to new, far flung places while others remained in Nebraska. Virtually all began preparing to take the bar examination. The difference, of course, was that all of these things took place under the cloud of a global pandemic. Those members of the class that took and passed the Nebraska state bar examination were sworn in outdoors, socially-distanced and wearing masks at Pinewood Bowl, an outdoor park venue.



"I promised our graduates that we would celebrate them with an in person ceremony when it was safe to do so," said Richard Moberly, dean of Nebraska Law, "and I am hopeful that we will be able to do that sooner than later. That said, I am so proud of this group of students. They handled these unimaginable circumstances with tremendous grit and resilience; and, those traits are what will serve them well."

1960s



Gene T. Oglesby, '68, retired from Oglesby Law Office in Lincoln.

1970s



Dennis W. Collins, '71, received the Nebraska State Bar Association's 2020 George H. Turner Award for his exemplary service to the legal profession. Collins is a partner at Jewell & Collins in Norfolk.



Kurt T. Rager, '77, retired from Nebraska's 6th Judicial District, where he served as county court judge since 2001.



Paul W. Snyder, '75, received the 2020 Visionary Award from the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation and Nebraska State Bar Association. He currently practices with Douglas Kelly Ost diek Snyder Ossian Vogl Lookabill in Scottsbluff.



Toni G. Thorson, '77, retired as a judge of the Separate Juvenile Court of Lancaster County.

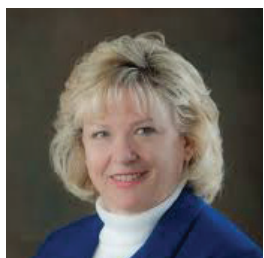


Teresa K. Luther, '76 received the 2020 Robert M. Spire Pro Bono Award from the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation and the Nebraska State Bar Association. Luther is a retired Hall County District Court judge.



Michael W. Pirtle, '78, has been appointed chief judge of the Nebraska Court of Appeals. In his role, he will continue to promote the idea of resolving appeals in a fair and timely matter.

1980s



Sally B. Bisson-Best, '81, retired from the College of Saint Mary's legal studies program after more than 29 years of service to the university located in Omaha. She began as an adjunct professor in 1991, was promoted to full professor in 1999 and concluded her career serving as associate professor and director.



Peter C. Wegman, '81, has been inducted as a fellow into the American College of Trial Lawyers. Wegman practices at Rembolt Ludtke, where he focuses on representing injured people and handling wrongful death and divorce cases.

1980s



Greg M. Bentz, '83, was selected by Best Lawyer's in America as the 2020 Kansas City Antitrust Lawyer of the Year. Bentz is an attorney with Sharp Law in Overland Park, Kansas.



Scott L. Gesell, '84, has been named chief executive officer and general counsel for Gateway First Bank, where he will also be the director for the board of directors. Gessell joined the bank's leadership team in 2013.



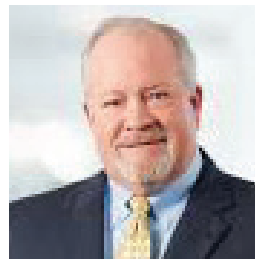
Amy L. Peck, '87, was recently featured in the *Chambers USA 2020 Guide*, a publication ranking the leading lawyers and law firms across the U.S. Peck is a principal in the Omaha office of Jackson Lewis. She dedicates her practice exclusively to immigration law and worksite compliance, and she is co-leader of the firm's immigration practice group.



Mark C. Quandahl, '87, has stepped down from his position with the Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance after five and a half years. He joined the banking and finance and corporate practice groups with Dvorak Law Group.



Michael S. Dunlap, '88, received The Lighthouse Beacon of Light Award for his contribution to the security and growth of Nebraska business, technology and public safety. Dunlap is the executive chairman of Nelnet Corporation.



William P. Finegan, '88, has been named to the 27th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in employment law – management and litigation – labor and employment. Finegan is a shareholder with Munsch Hardt in Dallas, Texas.

1990s



Linda R. Crump, '90, received the President's Professionalism Award from the Nebraska State Bar Association for her continued professionalism and respect of the public, clients, fellow attorneys and the justice system. Before retirement, Crump served as the director of the Office of Equity, Access and Diversity Programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Angela M. Mannaerts, '91, has transferred to the boutique firm of Mannaerts Moreschini & Associati in Milan, Italy. The firm operates in the areas of commercial law, including real estate, corporate law and mergers and acquisitions.

1990s



Mark A. Fahleson, '92, has been selected as a 27th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in employment law - management. He was also awarded the Award of Appreciation from the Nebraska State Bar Association for response and efforts regarding COVID-19 and employment law. Fahleson is a partner at Rembolt Ludtke in Lincoln.



Christine A. Neighbors, '92, was elected senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for Ameritas Mutual Holding Company, Ameritas Holding Company and Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation. Neighbors will continue to hold the title for Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation of New York. Her previous title was senior vice president, assistant corporate secretary.



Andrew G. Davis, '94, was appointed vice president and associate general counsel at Mutual of Omaha, where he provides legal counsel and manages litigation in multiple states.



Christine D. Horwart, '94, was elected judge for the Seventh Circuit Court in Benton County Arkansas. She owns The Horwart Firm in Bentonville, Arkansas.



Rick S. Lear, '94, has retired from the U.S. Transportation Command, where he was staff judge advocate for 25 years, providing legal expertise to the Army and Joint Force.



Thomas E. Powell II, '94, has been appointed chief legal officer for Cape Fear Valley Health, North Carolina's eighth largest health system. Powell previously served as an assistant vice president and assistant general counsel for Norton Healthcare based in Louisville, Kentucky. Prior to that, he served as assistant general counsel for the Hospital Division for Kindred Healthcare, also in Louisville.



Tamara S. Havelaar Herrera, '96, was appointed the associate dean of faculty development at Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. She is also the inaugural recipient of the W.P. Kay Fellowship in Legal Method. Herrera has been a professor at the law school since 2001 and teaches Legal Writing, Indian Legal Research and Property.



Scott A. Gray, '97, has been named vice president of administrative services at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

1990s



Stefan T. Wall, '97, has been named head coach of the Capital High School Bruins soccer team in Helena, Montana. Wall is managing partner with Wall, McLean & Gallagher.



Julie L. Rogers, '99, has been appointed the director of the Nebraska Office of the Public Counsel, also known as the State Ombudsman's Office. Previously she was inspector general for Child Welfare for Nebraska.

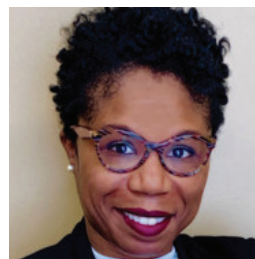


David O. Washington, '99, a philanthropical consultant and founder/CEO of Partnerships for Purpose, has created an Instagram account @SocialThatSupports. This initiative combines the enormous reach of prominent social media influencers with psychology experts to connect young people with science-based information and services about mental health.

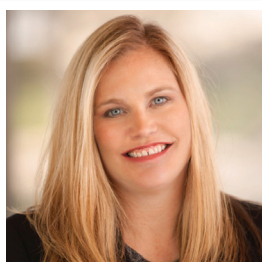
2000s



Nichole S. Bogen, '02, has been elected the Central Region vice president for 2020-21 for the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel. Bogen is a partner at Lamson Dugan & Murray in Omaha, where she focuses on the transportation industry.



Joy M. Smith-McCormick, '02, was named a 2019 Tampa Bay Business Journal's Top Corporate Counsel in honor of her work accomplishments. She currently serves as general counsel for a charter school group in Florida and holds a leadership role on the Florida Bar's Education Law Committee.



Jennifer R. Deitloff, '06, has been named the first chief diversity officer with The Scouler Company. She joined the group in 2017 as the company's senior associate general counsel, a position in which she will continue in addition to her new role.



Michael J. Kuhn, '06, has been named equity partner at the firm of Dowd Bennett in St. Louis. Kuhn specializes in complex commercial and class-action litigation.

ALUMNOTES

2000s



Mark T. Porto, '06, has re-joined the Grand Island firm of Shamberg, Wolf, McDermott & Depue as a partner, where he practiced as an associate from 2007-2017 before starting his own practice. His practice focuses on criminal defense, civil litigation and appellate law.



Michelle A. Richart, '06, has been named community and events director with the Military Spouse JD Network Board, a voluntary position that focuses on improving the lives of military families. Richart is a civilian JAG attorney for the Army and is counsel for a software company. She was also recently selected to become a member of the Air Force Reserves JAG Corp.



Elise M. W. White, '06, has been appointed to the Separate Juvenile Court of Lancaster County by Governor Pete Ricketts. Previously, she owned White Law Office in Lincoln.



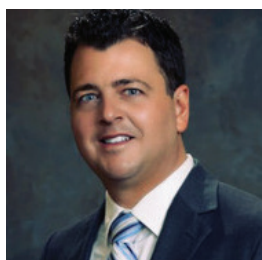
Andrea R. Buckley, '07, has been promoted to managing attorney of Iowa Legal Aid's Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic and Farmworker Rights Project. She has been a staff attorney in the Sioux City office of Iowa Legal Aid since 2009. She continues to work on tax litigation, as well as employment and tax issues affecting low income and migrant farmworkers.



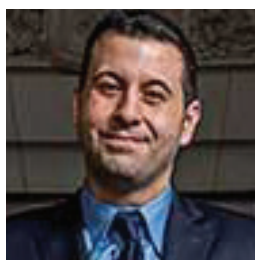
Heidi M. Hayes, '07, and husband, Adam, welcomed baby Alex Thomas on August 24, 2020. Alex joins big brother Noah and twin sisters, Madi and Jordy. Hayes recently stepped down as partner with Morrow Poppe Law.



Brent A. Meyer, '07, a partner in the Omaha office of Husch Blackwell, has been selected by the Greater Omaha Chamber to join the 43rd class of Leadership Omaha, a leadership development program for young professionals focusing on community trusteeship and community awareness.



Timothy R. Mulliner, '07, has joined Abrahams Kaslow & Cassman as a member of its banking, employment and litigation teams. Previously, Mulliner was in private practice in Nevada.



Jason A. Cantone, '08, received the Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award from the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning for his work in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

2000s



Yohance L. Christie, '09, has been appointed the city attorney of Lincoln by Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird. Christie previously spent more than 10 years as a deputy public defender in Lancaster County.

2010s



Amanda J. Bradley, '10, was appointed a magistrate judge in Arapahoe County, Colorado. Previously, Bradley was a staff attorney with the Colorado Court of Appeals.



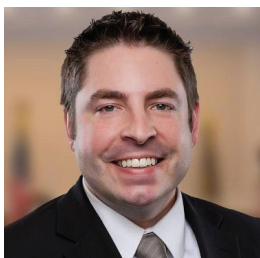
Tara L. Paulson, '10, received the Award of Appreciation from the Nebraska State Bar Association for her response and efforts regarding COVID-19 and employment law. Paulson is chair of the litigation practice group and member of the executive committee at Rembolt Ludtke.



Kristine S. Roberts, '10, has been named the new executive director of the Nebraska Mediation Center in Fremont. In her new role as executive director, Roberts will work with the board of directors, the NMC staff and affiliated mediators to provide mediation, facilitation and restorative justice practices across 24 counties and four Tribal Nations. Previously, she was in private practice in Fremont, where she focused in the areas of juvenile law, estate planning and guardianship and conservatorship.



Zachary J. Butz, '12, has been made partner at the Grand Island firm of Shambert, Wolf, McDermott & Depue, where he began as an associate in 2017.



Garrett A. Lutovsky, '12, has been named partner at the firm of Engles, Ketcham, Olson & Keith, where he began as an associate in 2008.



Jessica D. Meyer, '12, has been named the inaugural city administrator for the city of Syracuse, Nebraska. Meyer will have responsibilities regarding strategic and economic impact, as well as improvement plans and updating the city's comprehensive development plan.

2010s



Alexandra K. Cassidy, '13, and husband, Austin, welcomed son Chip in March. Cassidy is a client relations lead at the Lincoln office of Lutz Talent.



Trenton L. Dammann, '13, has been named city attorney for Redwood Falls in Minnesota. Previously, he was an associate attorney with the Walton Law Group in Olivia, Minnesota.



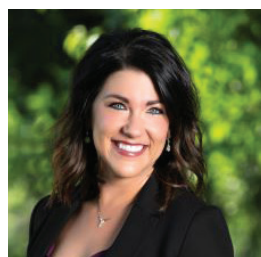
Daniel S. Murow, '13, has joined the Chicago office of Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff, where he is an associate in the real estate and environmental practice group.



Heather S. Colton, '14, has been named partner with Pollack & Ball in Lincoln, where she began her legal career as a legal assistant in 2010. After earning her juris doctor, she began with the firm as an associate attorney.



Kelsey L. (Dawson) Helget, '14, and husband Thomas, welcomed Patricia Bailey on August 22, 2020. Helget is an assistant public defender in Adams County.



Bergan E. Schumacher, '15, recently completed the Leadership Kearney Class, a two-year program of leadership development. Schumacher is an attorney with Bruner Frank Schumacher in Kearney.



Kara E. Brostrom, '16, received the 2020 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the Nebraska State Bar Association for her contributions to the community and to public service. Brostrom chairs the real estate, probate and trust section of the NSBA and is a partner and founder at Ball, Loudon, Ebert & Brostrom in Lincoln.



Thomas J. Helget, '16, and wife Kelsey, welcomed Patricia Bailey on August 22, 2020. Helget is a deputy county attorney in Hall County.

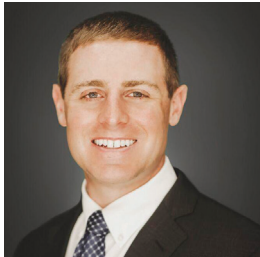


Katherine L. Klug, '16, husband, Jordan, big sister, Leighton, and big brother, Drew, welcomed baby Palmer on June 29, 2020. Klug is the assistant staff attorney at the Nebraska Supreme Court.



Michael L. LaFleur, '16, has joined Endacott Peetz & Timmer as an associate. Previously, LaFleur practiced in western Nebraska, where he focused on estate and trust planning, business and succession planning and probate and trust administration.

2010s



Michael L. Sholes, '16, has joined Strobe & Gotschall in O'Neil. Previously, he was an associate at Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather.



Harold F. Trull, '16, and wife, Shannon Ramey-Trull, welcomed baby Gabriel Stephen to the family. Trull serves as the assistant public defender at the office of the Missouri State Public Defender in Kansas City.



Hannah E. Carroll-Altman, '18, has accepted an in-house position as legal counsel for Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.



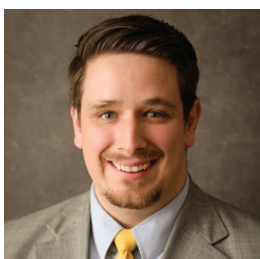
Tiffany S. Boutcher, '18, has joined Dvorak Law Group in Omaha, where her practice focuses on commercial and business litigation and dispute resolution.



Ryan J. Coufal, '19, has joined Dvorak Law Group, focusing his practice on commercial and business litigation.



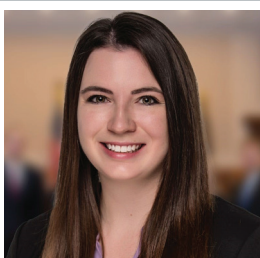
Jared M. Koch, '18, and wife, Amber, welcomed baby Flynn Bernard. Flynn joins brother, Asa, age 2. Koch practices real estate and estate planning at Blethen Berens in Mankato, Minnesota.



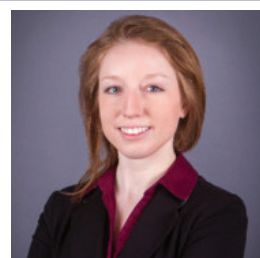
Jonathan A. Eller, '19, become a partner at Lepant Law Office in Beatrice and is the head of the bankruptcy department.



Brenna M. Grasz, '19, has joined the firm of Keating O'Gara in Lincoln as an associate attorney, following a one-year sojourn with the Nebraska Supreme Court as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Jonathan J. Papik.



Rachel M. Greifenkamp, '19, has accepted a position with the Omaha law firm of Engles, Ketcham, Olson & Keith as an associate attorney focusing on civil litigation.



Megan T. Heinzinger, '19, has been named the Cook County assistant state's attorney for the criminal appeals division in Chicago.

2010s



Joy M. Kathurima, '19, has joined Hightower Reff in Omaha, where she focuses her practice on family law. Previously, she worked in the Nearhood Office of Admissions at the College of Law as an admissions counselor.



Maureen F. Larsen, '19, was recently published in the Criminal Law Bulletin. Her article is entitled "Why Defendants Should Have the Opportunity to Challenge the Accuracy of Interpreted Statements by Cross-Examination." 56 No. 2 *Crim. Law Bulletin* ART 1 (Spring 2020).



R. Taylor Rivera, '19, has been selected for the position of city attorney in Beatrice. Rivera previously worked for Fidelity National Title Group in Omaha.

2020s



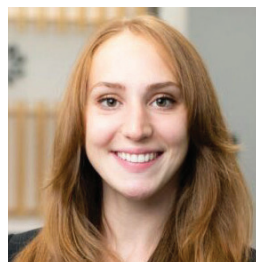
Shailana S. Dunn-Wall, '20, was one of two students nationwide selected to serve as a Christine A. Brunswick Public Service Fellow. As a fellow, Dunn-Wall works for Legal Aid of Nebraska to educate residents throughout Nebraska on the benefits of the Earned Income Tax Credit in an effort to increase the percentage of eligible taxpayers who claim the credit by filing a tax return.



Sarah M. Hammond, '20, has joined Stamm Romero & Associates in Kearney as an associate attorney.



Mallory B. Rechtenbach, '20, has joined the Institute for Free Speech for a one-year term as the inaugural First Amendment fellow. In this position, she supports the Institute's legal team in litigation, writing amicus curiae briefs and conducting legal research.



Sarah A. Wetzel, '20, has joined Dvorak Law Group in Omaha, where she will focus on mergers and acquisitions, as well as general business needs.

IN MEMORIAM

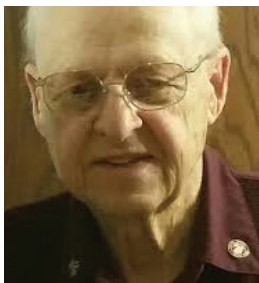
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Donald L. Marti, '59, passed away on August 19, 2020, in Arnolds Park, Iowa.



Howard F. Ach, '63, passed away on June 6, 2020, in Lincoln, at the age of 82. Prior to receiving his law degree, Ach earned a degree in Business Administration from UNL. He married Shirley Rhineshart in 1962 and worked for State Farm Insurance, York State Bank and practiced in Friend with his father and brother. In 1979, he founded Ach Law Office in Geneva. He practiced as a defense attorney and served as the Fillmore county attorney and deputy county attorney. In his spare time, he enjoyed playing with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, playing golf, cards and going to the horse races.



Larry D. Knox, '63, passed away on July 21, 2019, at the Veterans Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, at the age of 83. After high school, Larry joined the Marine Corps. Upon finishing his commitment in 1957, he married Phyllis Swaim. Knox attended Parsons College in Fairfield for one year, then moved to California, earning an associate of arts degree from Long Beach City College. He then attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earning a bachelor of law degree. In 1963, he earned his juris doctor degree. Larry practiced in Jacksonville, Florida, then returned to Iowa to work as an attorney in the Des Moines Metro area until his semi-retirement in 2003. He enjoyed playing golf and was passionate about Nebraska Cornhusker football.



Larry D. Hall, '67, passed away at the age of 77, on June 29, 2020, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, peacefully at his home with his family by his side. Larry attended Kearney State College in 1984, earning a degree in education. He then attended law school, earning his juris doctor degree with honors in 1967. After law school, Hall accepted a position with and quickly became partner at Wright, Simmons, Honcock, & Hall in Scottsbluff. In 1971, Hall joined Kansas Nebraska Natural Gas Company as an attorney and assistant treasurer in Hastings. The company then moved its headquarters to Lakewood, Colorado, where Hall followed and quickly made his way to the positions of chief executive officer and chairman of the board. He grew the company from a regional natural gas carrier to a major national energy services company and member of the Fortune 500. Hall also served as chairman of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America and the Natural Gas Supply Association of America. He was also an attorney and counselor of the Supreme Court of the United States, as well as the Supreme Court of Colorado and Nebraska. In 1999, Hall retired to Colorado Springs to be closer to his four sons and their families. Family was the most important part of his life.

IN MEMORIAM



Dennis C. Karnopp, '67, passed away peacefully on March 9, 2020, at the age of 77. Karnopp was born in and grew up in Lincoln. Prior to law school, he graduated from UNL in 1953, where he was a member of the rodeo team and met his wife, Marilyn (Masters). In 1967, he joined McKay, Panner, Johnson & Marceau law firm in Bend, Oregon, where he practiced law for 50 years, later becoming Karnopp Peterson Law Firm. He loved his family and spending time exploring the West, spending time hunting, fishing, and skiing as time allowed. He served as president of the Oregon State Bar, the Western States Bar Conference and the Central Oregon Bar. He also served as a lawyer representative for the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and as a co-chair of the Campaign for Equal Justice and was a member of the OSB Affirmative Action Committee. In 2009, received the OSB President's Affirmative Action Award.



Lanny N. Fauss, '68, passed away in Gretna on April 19, 2020, at the age of 77. Fauss attended Norfolk Junior College, then moved to California in 1963 to complete his degree at Cal State Northridge. After graduating in 1965, he returned to Nebraska for law school. He then entered the trucking industry, owning several companies, last of which was Dedicated Transportation Services, which he had operated with his wife, Rhonda, since 1992.



Herbert D. Knudsen, '68, passed away in his sleep on April 18, 2020, at the age of 78. He earned his undergraduate degree from Dana College in Blair, where he started the wrestling team and was student body president. While at Dana, he met his wife, Karen. During law school, he spent time traveling the country and visiting each judicial district. They then moved to Midland, Michigan, where he worked for Dow Chemical Company as a patent attorney. He was then recruited to work for Standard Oil in Ohio. In 1987, he founded Natural Fibers Corporation in Ogallala, focusing on the development of the Milkweed plant. Eventually, the business grew, and they returned to Ogallala in 1990. He was quick to volunteer his time and services, serving various groups in the Ogallala community. He loved his family and was convinced they were all destined for greatness.



Willard C. Weinhold, '68, passed away on September 18, 2020, at the age of 77. Prior to law school, Weinhold attended Valparaiso University, graduating in 1964. He became the Dawson County Attorney in 1969, a position he held until 1978. Weinhold then began a private practice and served as Lexington's city attorney from 1979 to 2005, at which point he retired. In his spare time, he enjoyed golfing, woodworking and spending time with grandchildren.



David L. Chambers, '70, passed away on May 26, 2020, at the age of 94. He married Katheryn Lewin in 1946 and began a career in farming, during which time he became a square dance caller and built a hall known as the Tin Roof. After 10 years, he decided to obtain both his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Wayne State. He then taught high school, before pursuing his law degree. In 1970, he became the assistant director at the League of Nebraska Municipalities, later being named the executive director in 1974. In his spare time, he enjoyed flying, a passion which he shared with his three sons, a daughter-in-law and grandson, who later became pilots.



Melvin R. Katskee, '71, passed away on June 24, 2020, at the age of 74. Prior to attending law school, Katskee graduated from Creighton University in 1968. After receiving his law degree, he moved to Omaha, where he clerked for the Honorable United States District Court Judge John W. Delehant. He then served as the longest corporate counsel for Omaha National Bank, and successor banks, then spent time in private practice with Katskee, Henatsch & Suing.



Timothy J. Otto, '73, passed away in Aurora on May 26, 2020, at the age of 71. Otto obtained both his undergrad and law degrees from the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1973. Upon graduation, he joined the firm now known as Whitney, Newman, Mersch & Otto in Aurora. He served on the Memorial Hospital Foundation Board since its inception and served for many years on District 4-R Board of Education. He was a member of the Aurora Rotary Club and served as club president in 1989. Otto enjoyed working in his yard and raising his flowers and plants through the winter months in his greenhouse and sharing them with many friends.



Carol J. Wightman, '76, passed away July 5, 2020, at Unity Point Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She was 68 years old. Wightman earned her degree in education in 1973 and a juris doctor from Nebraska Law. It was during undergraduate she met her husband, Terry Wightman, who then also attended law school. Wightman practiced in Minneapolis before transitioning positions and becoming a high school English teacher. After adopting two children from Korea, the family moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she became a professor of speech & communication for many years at Cornell College in Mount Vernon. She believed that "actions speak louder than words," always sharing a smile and advice. She loved cooking, traveling, her toy poodle, Ginger, and cheering for Nebraska athletics.



Mary L. Broerman, '79, passed away November 11, 2019, in Centerville, Ohio, at the age of 76. Upon graduation from Nebraska Law, Broerman worked in private practice in Manchester, Tennessee until 1986, at which point she transitioned to the role of contract attorney for the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. In 2001, she participated in the Legislative Fellowship Program at the Pentagon, a position for which she was selected. In 2003, she transferred to NASA's Johnson Space Center as an attorney advisor, retiring in 2008. In her spare time, she enjoyed spending time with family and her pets, as well as biking, hiking, painting and tennis.

IN MEMORIAM



R. Craig Fry, '80, passed away on July 26, 2020, at the age of 84. He obtained both his undergraduate degree in accounting and law degree from the University of Nebraska, later becoming a partner at Abrahams, Kaslow & Cassman in Omaha. He was a true fan of the Huskers and enjoyed basketball, tennis, golf and taking trips to ski in the mountains. Fry was a loving and caring husband, father, brother, uncle and friend to everyone who knew him.



Kevin G. Duling, '81, passed away peacefully at his home in Lincoln on June 5, 2020, at the age of 66. In addition to working as an attorney, he was a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association and represented Forke Brothers Auctioneers and co-founded Signature Auctions. He is past president of the Lincoln Community Playhouse board.



Calvin D. Hansen, '82, passed away in Lincoln on August 29, 2020, at the age of 65.



Kevin K. Knake, '88, passed away from a glioblastoma on May 27, 2020, at his home in Hastings, his wife, Chris, by his side. He was 57 years old. After obtaining both undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Nebraska, he worked as Platte County deputy attorney, later becoming deputy public defender in Hall County. He then left Hall County, where he worked for several law offices in Hastings before opening his own law firm in 2018. He loved celebrating St. Patrick's Day, reading history books and spending time at Lake Erickson.



Lena R. (Rathje) Hockabout, '97, passed away June 18, 2020, at the age of 48, at the Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk. She graduated from University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in English, followed by her juris doctor degree. She began her law career at Jeffrey, Hahn, Hemmerling, Zimmerman Law Firm in Lincoln until her marriage to Tom Hockabout in 2002. Hockabout then worked with the Johnson, Morland, Easland Law Office in Norfolk. In 2006, she received her teacher's certificate in elementary education from Wayne State College. Hockabout then served as vice president and trust officer for 13 years at Elkhorn Valley Bank & Trust in Norfolk. She was a devoted mother who enjoyed spending time with her family and enjoyed cooking, gardening, crocheting, playing board games, attending art classes and watching her girls dance.

REPORT ON GIVING

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Mrs. Jill G. Schroeder

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Mr. Robert P. Foster Jr.
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Johnson
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Mr. Neil L. Johnson
Mr. Steven M. Maun
Mr. Christopher J. McVeigh
Mr. Robert J. Melgaard
Mr. Harlan B. Milder
Mr. Keith E. Moxon
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Mr. George S. Nash
Ms. Linda B. Norris
Mr. William M. Ojile Jr.
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Mr. Robert W. Shively Jr.
Mr. Gearld L. Wolff

1986

Mrs. Christine E. Denicola
Mr. Gregory P. Gillis
Mr. John D. Hunter

Hon. Terry R. Rickers
Mr. Andrew R. Sluss
Mr. Hans H. Thielman
Mr. Jeffery T. Schroeder
Mr. Dan L. Lindstrom
Mr. Michael K. O'Neal
Mrs. Kathleen E. Rockey
Mr. Allen G. Erickson

1987

Mr. John C. Anderson
Col. Gerald R. Bruce Retd.
Ms. Janet S. Gurwitch
Mr. Bradley A. Hall
Hon. Russell W. Harford
Mr. Scott D. Johnston
Mr. Frank L. Labrador
Hon. Jodi L. Nelson
Mr. Neal P. Nelson

1988

Mr. Jay W. R. Bohlken
Mrs. Marie L. Buckley
Mr. David R. Denton
Mr. Wayne E. Dolezal
Mr. Eric M. Johnson
Mr. Jeffrey A. Nix
Mr. Todd W. Ruskamp
Mrs. Elizabeth K. Ryan
Mr. John M. Ryan
Ms. Abbie J. Widger

1989

Mr. Richard A. Davis
Ms. Mary M. Elliston
Hon. L. Steven Gras
Mr. John C. Gessert
Mr. Stephen J. Henning
Mr. Thomas V. Hinshaw
Mr. Stephen A. Mendyk
Mr. Robert J. Parker Jr.
Mrs. Marybeth Ruskamp
Mrs. Lisa R. Thayer
Mr. John H. Zelenka

1990

Mr. Mark A. Brohman
Mrs. Linda R. Crump
Ms. Susan L. Gessert
Mr. Jeffrey L. Hansen
Mrs. Kyle L. Hanson
Mr. David A. Miller
Mr. Robert A. Monniere
Dr. Ramona L. Paetzold

Mrs. Christine Pfiffner
Mr. Daniel J. Thayer
Mr. Barry R. Wilkerson
Mrs. Susan R. Wurtz
Mr. Anthony Young

1991

Emily Campbell Ph.D.
Mr. Steven W. Dowding
Mr. Robert L. Eden
Mrs. Bridget J. Esch
Mr. Kenneth D. Esch
Mrs. Ruth E. Mendyk
Mr. James R. Nygren
Ms. Pamela B. Peck
Mr. Bryan P. Robertson J.D.
Mr. Mark J. Wurtz

1992

Ms. Sarabeth Donovan
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Hon. James G. Kube
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Mr. Scott S. Moore J.D.
Mr. Andrew S. Pollock

1993

Mr. Michael R. Contarino
Mr. Thomas S. Kruml
Mr. Gregory R. Johnson
Mrs. Melanie S. Patton
Mr. Richard B. Murphy
Mr. Patrick J. Straka

1994

Ms. Valerie J. Blevins
Mr. Paul H. Ladehoff
Mr. James C. Ziter

1995

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Mr. Roy R. Carson
Mrs. Sheree S. Carson
Ms. Barbara A. Romo
Mr. Robby J. Shortridge

1996

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Mr. Sheldon A. Herbert
Mr. William R. Jeppson
Mrs. Colleen P. Manly
Mr. Michael P. Manly
Mrs. Paige J. Roberts
Mr. Daniel Torrens Esq.

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Mr. Kyle J. Gilster
Mr. Jeffery R. Kirkpatrick
Ms. Aleisa A. McKinlay
Mr. Steven L. Meints
Mr. Joel D. Nelson

1998

Mr. Derrick J. Hahn
Mrs. Octavia Y. Hathaway
Mr. Kevin L. McMullen

1999

Mrs. Suzanne M. Rodekohr
Mr. Chad W. Swantz
Ms. Jill E. Thomsen

2000

Mr. Jason C. Demman
Mrs. Laura K. Demman
Mr. Jeffrey D. Holloway
Ms. Jennifer M. Stehlik
Ladman J.D.
Mr. Michael G. Rogers
Mr. Dale R. Shook
Mr. Trent R. Sidders
Mr. Joshua F. Stubbe

2001

Mr. Grayson J. Derrick
Mrs. Jisella A. Dolan
Mrs. Lori C. Helgoth
Mrs. Maureen E. Lamski
Mr. Brian S. Nielsen
Mr. Charles A. Smith

2002

Mrs. Tasha A. Everman
Mr. James A. Hempel Jr.
Mrs. Tracy L. Jamison
Mr. Joseph J. Kehm
Mrs. Jessica C. Sidders
Ms. Cathy S. Trent-Vilim
Ms. Julia G. Young

2003

Mrs. Molly M. Brummond
Mrs. Danielle M. Conrad
Mr. Thomas M. Conrad
Ms. Sunah K. Lee
Mr. Eric C. Johnson
Ms. Aliza Anvari
Mrs. Cheri S. Raymond

Mr. Andrew D. Weeks

2004

Mr. Brett T. Daee

2005

Mr. Jameson C. Brummond
Mr. Sean M. Gleason
Ms. Stacie A. Goding
Mrs. Stephanie A. Mattoon
Mrs. Katherine N. Novak
Ms. Alisa M. Rosales J.D.
Mrs. Tara A. Stingley
Mr. Steven N. Welch
Mrs. Katie A. Welsch

2006

Mr. Michael J. Kuhn
Mr. Keith T. Peters
Mr. Christopher D. Seifert

2007

Mrs. Caitlin R. Barnes
Mr. Hans P. Bindner
Ms. Wendy A. Carey
Mr. Todd J. Hinkins
Mr. Ryan J. Sevcik
Mr. Isaiah Wilson II

2008

Mr. William J. Troshynski Jr.
Mrs. Kari A. Scheer
Mr. Anthony A. Ybarra
Mrs. Erin L. Ebeler Rolf
Mrs. Valerie J. Newman
Ms. Lisa J. Morinelli
Mrs. Jennifer A. Mostek

2009

Mrs. Kelly M. Ekeler
Mr. Nathaniel J. Jagers
Mrs. Elizabeth A. Sevcik
Mrs. Laura E. Troshynski
Mr. Sean D. White

2010

Mr. Kurt D. Arganbright
Mr. Richard A. Kruse
Ms. Mary J. Lang
Mr. Matthew T. Schaefer
Ms. Heather L. Sikyta

2011

Mr. Jordan T. Glaser

Mr. Robert B. Truhe

2012

Mrs. Elissa M. Hodges
Mr. Eric W. Knutson
Mrs. Kate Q. Martz
Mrs. Emily Z. McElravy
Ms. Vanessa A. Silke
Mrs. Danielle B. Smith
Mrs. Christine E. Truhe

2013

Mr. Chad A. Kamler
Ms. Allyson G. Rafferty
Ms. Christina L. Usher
Ms. Carla J. Waldbaum

2014

Ms. Sara K. Houston
Mr. James B. Newell
Ms. Leslie S. Stryker
Mr. David T. Schwenke

2015

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Mr. Richard W. Tast Jr.
Ms. Meridith A. Wailes

2016

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Mr. Daniel J. Gutman
Mrs. Sarah D. Polito J.D.
Mr. Casey W. Steadman
Mrs. Shannon N. Schroeder
Ahl
Mr. John F. Zimmer

2017

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Mrs. Brooke A. Harms J.D.

2018

Ms. Sydney C. Aase
Ms. Paige E. Gade
Ms. Dayna L. Langdon
Mr. Travis J. Phelps
Ms. Joanna M. Uden

2019

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Mr. Damon J. Hudson J.D.
Mr. Hunter G. Knight
Mrs. Nichole M. Sklare

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Ms. Alexandria M. Bartels
Ms. Kimberly M. Barton
Ms. Amanda J. Berman
Ms. Ashley R. Beukenhorst
Mr. Thomas J. Chvala
Mr. Carey D. Collingham
Mr. Dylan D. Dam
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Mr. Stewart K. Guderian
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Ms. Sarah A. Wetzel
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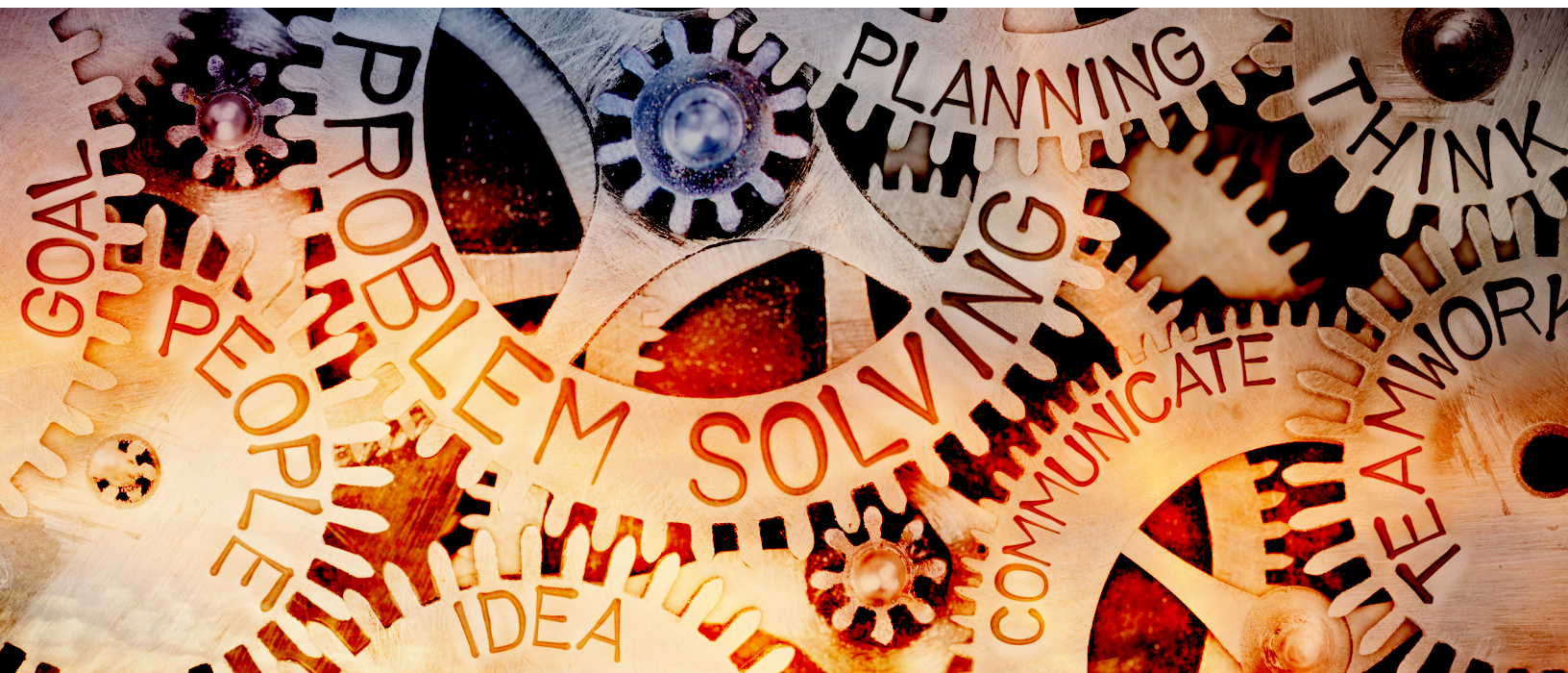
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